



Kent on Sunday

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North & West edition No 722

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Fury as live exports resume

Protest at port as trade sails again

EDUCATION

Grammars set to grow?

Minister's hint suggests county could get new wave of selective schools

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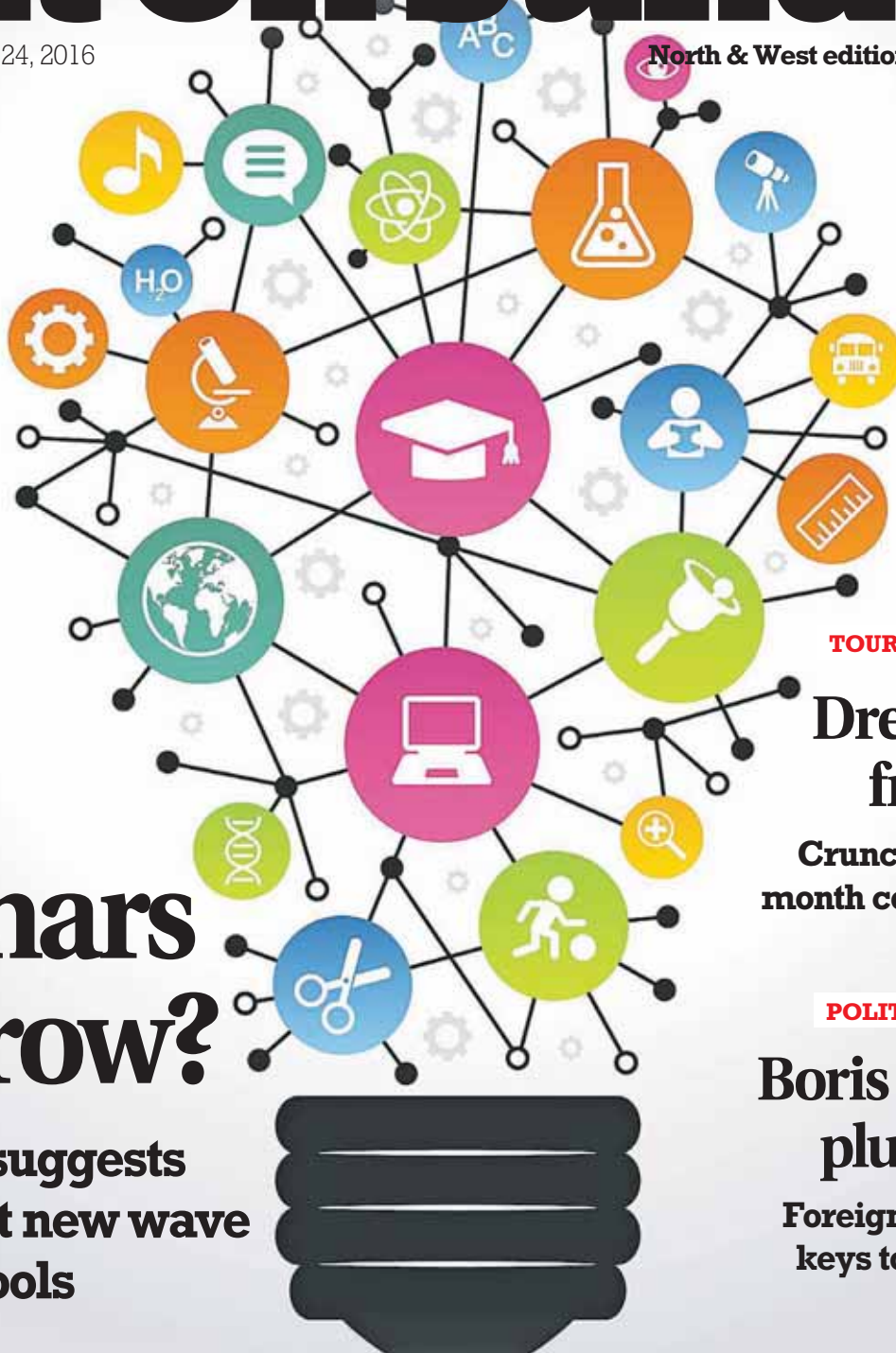
Dreamland's fresh crisis

Crunch meeting next month could determine its fate

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Boris Johnson's plush retreat

Foreign secretary gets keys to Kent mansion





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Dreamland's future is reliant on local support

THERE is a terrible irony that just as the sun shines and the school holidays begin, the cloud of crisis hanging over Margate's Dreamland darkens (see full story on page 11).

More difficult to take too when considering some 10,000 passed through its gates last Saturday - the biggest single day since its revival. Although that, admittedly, swollen by the dropping of the entry fee by administrators of the park in order to try and create some much needed footfall and charge per ride.

No one can take any pleasure from seeing this particular pleasure palace teeter so close to closure, and the county will be united in hoping it can turn its fortunes around - or at least find someone else who can.

Inevitably, the focus will turn to identifying just how we got in this mess. But, to an extent, there is a far more funda-

mental one to challenge, and that is just who should Dreamland appeal to? The people of Kent or those of east London? The answer has to be both, not just the latter.

The Turner Contemporary works because it is free, and those who appreciate art come from wide and varied backgrounds. It does not, however, equate that they also have a penchant for retro theme parks.

Dreamland has tried simply too hard to appeal to the style over substance, disposable income-heavy

DfL (Down from London) brigade and not enough on appealing to local families and pricing it accordingly.

Only now, with entry free, are those people flocking. Those people who will come back again and again rather than the once in a blue moon DfLers.

Here's hoping that lesson will not be forgotten, and here's hoping it survives.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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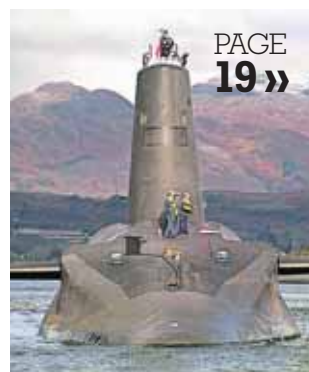
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Protesters rally as live exports return to port

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

PROTESTERS turned out in droves on Wednesday night as live animal exports returned to the port of Ramsgate.

Thanet District Council, which previously refused to accept cargoes of live animals at the port after evidence of animal cruelty in 2012, was forced by a High Court ruling to resume the trade.

South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay earlier this year blamed "the big boot of the EU" for blocking Britain's ability to block the trade, and said a vote for Brexit would allow greater control.

However, while Britain continues to negotiate its exit from the EU, it seems exporters, who were Dutch according to onlookers, are now on an accelerated timetable.

Ian Driver, a campaigner against live exports and a former Thanet councillor, was present at the protest.

He said: "This cruel and barbaric trade has been operating from Ramsgate Port since May 2011.

"In that time hundreds of thousands of sheep and calves have



FIGHT: Ian Driver is campaigning to ban the live animal export trade as it returned to Ramsgate this week

passed through the port in horrendously cramped conditions, with limited access to food and water, in lorries awash with faeces and urine.

"The animals are transported on long journeys lasting many hours across the UK and the EU and on arrival at their destinations face a cruel and brutal ritual slaughter."

Follow campaigner Yvonne Birchall, secretary of the Kent Action Against Live Exports

(KAAL) group, told us: "There were well over 100 people there.

"We actually moved the protest up from the port, where we were having very little effect, to the Nethercourt roundabout.

"It was much more effective, and we had so much public support – people were even getting out of their cars and giving us phone numbers so they could take part.

"There were supposed to be four trucks turning up but there were

five and they had very, very young lambs on board.

"Travelling in such temperatures meant we were very concerned.

"We noticed one of the drivers was female, and I couldn't believe a woman would be involved in a trade like this."

Mr Driver says he predicts two or three shipments per week passing through the port until late September.

Fury as Ukip councillor says those who voted Remain should be killed

A Ukip councillor who said it was "time to kill" voters who opted to remain in last month's EU referendum says his comments were meant to be "taken with a pinch of salt".

The comments were made by Terence Nathan, Ukip councillor for Cray Valley West, who serves on Bromley Council.

Writing on his Facebook page this week, he said it was "time to start killing these people till article 50 is invoked; perhaps remainers will get the message then".

Replying to someone who took exception to the post, further comments were made, reading: "Not threatening anyone, no need for threats just a bullet."

Police have confirmed they are looking into the incident.

Cllr Nathan has since deleted the comments. He told KoS: "My comments were meant to be taken with a pinch of salt.

"I did not think anyone would take it seriously but some obviously have

and I greatly regret this.

"It was honestly intended as a ridiculous over statement. Anyone would tell you that I hold dear both respect and democracy.

"I would never seriously have advocated such violence."

Ukip leader of the party on Bromley Council, David Livett, said: "Basically the remarks were an error of judgement that allowed offence, they were not sinister."

Ukip's 2015 candidate for the Bromley and Chislehurst, Emmett Jenner, added: "Terry said it was meant in jest and he realises with hindsight that it was sarcastic and didn't translate well to social media."

Julie Ireland of Bromley Liberal Democrats described the comments as "outrageous".

A Bromley council spokesperson added: "The council has launched an investigation into the alleged comments made but it would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage."

Roads set to feel pressure as summer getaway begins

EXPECT our roads to be jammed this weekend as the great summer getaway takes place, with millions heading to the ports or airports as the school holidays begin.

Additional security checks by French border officials and the sheer volume of traffic is expected to mean delays for those using Eurotunnel or the ferries.

Meanwhile, the rush for airports

is set to put additional strains on our motorways.

In addition, a number of major events take place in the county this weekend, with the Whitstable Oyster Festival's opening weekend and the Ramblin' Man Festival taking place at Maidstone's Mote Park.

Both are expecting crowds in the tens of thousands.

Waste consultation is all about a load of old rubbish

A CONSULTATION into the way our household waste will be disposed of over the next two decades has been launched by Kent County Council.

Its waste disposal strategy will form the backbone plan of how household waste is disposed in the county between 2017 and 2035.

KCC is responsible for the disposal and recycling of Kent's

household waste whilst the district and borough councils are responsible for collecting it.

The draft strategy sets out the current position, identifies future pressures and outlines how KCC intends to maintain a sustainable service in the face of budget cuts.

Deadline for views is October 2, and the strategy can be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/wastestrategy.



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Thanet Way lorry park decision pushed back

A DECISION into another lorry park in the county has been deferred until August 18.

Swale Borough Council were set to rule on Thursday night about £1.5 million plans for a 24-hour facility off the west-bound carriageway for the A299 Thanet Way, close to the Lychgate services at Hernhill, between Faversham and Whitstable.

Proposed by P&S Properties – a father and son team of Paul and Zach Palmer from Herne Bay – it would cater for 58 trucks. Paul Palmer said: “The facilities in this country are awful and we realised that Kent needed something better. This would get a lot of lorries off the road, and drivers will have clean facilities including showers and a nice place to eat.”



CHALLENGE: Hospital at Pembury

NHS trust told to overcome £23m deficit

A MAJOR NHS trust has been placed in special measures after forecasting a deficit of some £23 million.

The Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which runs the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells at Pembury hospitals, has now vowed to turn its fortunes around following the decision by NHS Improvement (NHSI), which oversees trusts. It will offer assistance to balance the books.

Chief executive of the trust Glenn Douglas said: “We have a long and strong track record of making financial efficiencies and improving patient care.

“I am confident we can use this opportunity positively to renew and strengthen our focus on more closely providing our high quality services within our financial means.

“A plan is in place and being delivered to make efficiency savings of £23m, however this still leaves the trust with a gap of a further £23m between its income and expenditure to address.

“The trust’s work with NHSI will look at ways to close this gap and reduce the trust’s deficit beyond what it has already planned and started to deliver.

“We are working with NHSI to ensure our trust has a robust efficiency plan to return it to financial balance sooner rather than later.”

Rise in sex offences but burglaries, car crime and shoplifting all fall

By Tom Pyman

THE number of sexual offences committed in Kent is up by 20 per cent on last year according to new government figures.

The data, released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), shows a rise in offences from 2,626 in the year ending March 2015 to 3,145 in the following 12 months.

Violence was also up 19 per cent, with 33,993 cases reported in 2015/16. It will have contributed to a hike in total recorded crime, excluding fraud, from 110,287 last year to 113,651 – a rise of three per cent.

However, while general crime rises, the number of theft cases is down generally to 48,837 – a reduction of seven per cent on 2014/15.

Broken down further, it shows a reduction in burglaries of 12 per cent – of those domestic burglaries were down 14 per cent and non-domestics down 10 per cent.

Similarly, there was a three per



ALERT: Kent Police

cent fall in vehicle offences, a 23 per cent drop in bike thefts and a seven per cent decrease in shoplifting in the county.

Det Chief Insp Susie Harper, of Kent Police, said of the sex offence

statistics: “There is a significant growth in the confidence people have in the police to fully investigate sexual offences.

“We have experienced a rise in the number of non-recent child sexual offences reported to us and we have been successful in securing many convictions for such crimes.

“Behind every statistic lies a very real incident of abuse and there is a passion and desire to raise awareness within the wider community, as we know that awareness brings action, and that action saves lives being damaged for the future.

“There is a significant amount of work underway to safeguard children and raise awareness of child sexual abuse in all its guises.

“We are engaging more than ever before with schools and other key stakeholders to tackle the issue and bring offenders to justice.”

Nationally, the data reveals nearly six million fraud and cyber crimes are committed every year, with one in 10 people now victims of the offences.

Final book in history project is published

A MAJOR history project has finally published its tenth and final volume some 27 years after it first started.

The Kent History Project celebrated the release this week of the book *Early Medieval Kent*, with a launch party in Maidstone.

Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for community services, said: “This publication marks the end of a long-running and ambitious project launched in 1989 by the county council to celebrate its centenary.

“The aim was to commission a new history of the county of Kent in ten volumes, including two special volumes on the histories of Rochester Bridge and Rochester Cathedral.

“The intention from the outset has been to provide a high quality academic history of Kent that provides a definitive academic starting point for all those interested in the history of the county and I am delighted to say this has been achieved.”

Copies are available at local libraries.

Mental health in the young set to cash in

A PROGRAMME designed to improve the mental health of children throughout the county has received a £10m funding boost.

HeadStart, a national five year Big Lottery Fund programme aimed at preventing thousands of young people from experiencing common emotional and mental health problems, has been tested successfully in Kent for the past two years.

Now, along with just five other local authorities in England, Kent County Council has been chosen to expand the work further.

In Kent, there are 125,300 young people aged 10 to 16 and nearly 19,000 of those will have mild to moderate problems with emotional wellbeing that would benefit from additional help and support alongside their parents and carers.

In the longer term, this new approach aims to reduce the number of referrals to specialist mental health treatments, by delivering innovative ways to help children cope better themselves when faced with difficult times in their lives.

Can you beat odds to land £2,500 trout?

ANGLERS have the chance to land a fish with a £2,500 bounty on its head.

Bowl Water in Lamberhurst has launched the challenge of landing “the golden trout” with the specially tagged fish being released and landing the lucky angler a £2,500 cash prize.

Those who want to be in with a chance of winning the prize need to pay an additional £2.50 supplement on top of their usual ticket price.

However, they’ll need luck as well as judgement – it will be one of 27,500 other trout used to re-stock Bowl Water since January.

Howard Mackenzie, estates manager at the site, explained: “The golden trout was released into the middle of the reservoir, which can hold up to 31,000 million litres of water, so it could be anywhere by now. “There is no time limit to the competition, it remains open until whenever it is successfully landed.

“We wish the best of luck to all those anglers who set out to catch it.”

The contest starts from August 1.

Green builds team as Crouch 'delighted' at keeping her job

By Tom Pyman

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TRACEY Crouch says she is "absolutely delighted" to retain her post as sports, tourism and heritage minister as part of Theresa May's extensive overhaul of her cabinet and ministers.

The new prime minister made a number of changes last week, including the promotion of Ashford's Damian Green to head of work and pensions, the switching of Greg Clark of Tunbridge Wells from communities minister to business chief and the retention of Sevenoaks' Michael Fallon as defence secretary.

Now Mrs May has also decided to keep on the Chatham and Aylesford MP, who is currently on maternity leave, as her sports minister.

Mrs Crouch was the only one of Kent's 17 MPs to not declare which way she was voting in last month's EU referendum, after saying she was "appalled by both campaigns".

Meanwhile, two more of the county's MPs have stepped down from senior positions.

Julian Brazier of Canterbury has relinquished his role as minister for reserves at the Ministry of Defence, while Dover MP Charlie Elphicke has stepped down as government whip.

He said he will look forward to speaking up for his constituency and supporting Mrs May from the backbenches.



BACK: The former immigration minister Damian Green is back in the cabinet

Damian Green kicked off his career as work and pensions secretary by welcoming a fresh five-strong team of ministers to help lead the department.

Damian Hinds was made employment minister, Penny Mordaunt named minister for disabled people, work and health, Lord David Freud retained his position as minister for welfare reform, Richard Harrington was made parliamentary under-secretary for pensions and Caroline Nokes was given the role of parliamentary under-secretary

for welfare delivery.

Mr Green said: "I'm delighted to be leading one of the most important departments in government.

"What we do here directly affects millions of people, from all parts of the country, and at all stages of their lives. Together we will work hard to continue reforming welfare, supporting disabled people, ensuring older people have a secure retirement, and making sure everyone who can work has the opportunities they need."

Battle on for former Chaucer school site

CANTERBURY Christ Church University has confirmed it wants to open a new secondary free school on the site of the former Chaucer Technology School in the cathedral city.

The non-selective, non-faith school for 11 to 18-year-olds would be a university training school – and one of just three in the country.

It faces competition from Barton Court Grammar which also wants to create a school on the site.

Czech mate jets back into Biggin Hill airfield

THE last remaining Czech pilot who flew during the Battle of Britain paid a special visit to Biggin Hill Airport on Thursday.

General Emil Bocek was flown in by the Czech Air Force for a day of special commemorations.

He also had the opportunity to fly in one of the two-seat Spitfires at the airfield.

Want to be on TV?

PRODUCERS at Channel 5 are on the hunt for Kent families to take part in a new prime-time documentary series exploring the growing wealth divide in modern Britain.

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Jobs must go to save college from collapse, warns chief

STAFF at Canterbury College have been told it has to shave more than £3million of its wage bill in order to prevent it from collapsing.

And that means 116 jobs will go - although 76 new posts will be created as East Kent College (EKC) continues to seize control of the struggling further education institution.

EKC is creating a single management team to oversee both it and Canterbury College with EKC principal Graham Razey taking over the same role at Canterbury.

The move follows the intervention of the Skills Funding Agency, which has agreed a recovery plan.

Mr Razey said: "The financial situation, and the deficit, needs to be urgently addressed for 2016-17 and beyond, in order to secure the future of the college and the



services it provides to the local community.

"To achieve a balanced budget in 2016-17, and address the ongoing structural deficit, £3m needs to be saved from the

college's pay costs. The college must generate sufficient cash to service its loans and repay the capital that is due."

The 116 positions at risk will be the subject of a 45-day consultation.

Bluetongue vaccine now available for farmers' use

A VACCINE against bluetongue - a viral disease which affects sheep and cattle - has been made available this week to support farmers in managing a predicted outbreak of the disease this summer.

Experts fear a high risk of the non-contagious, insect-borne, disease that affects reproduction, reaching Kent as a result of infected midges being blown across the English Channel from France, where the disease is present.

It poses no threat to human health and does not affect meat, milk or other animal products.

Vaccination is the best way to protect Britain's livestock, and farmers are being encouraged to talk to their vets to decide if the vaccine could help their businesses.

Government deputy chief veterinary officer Simon Hall said: "This is the perfect time to talk to your vet as the vaccine is the only effective tool to prevent illness.

"I am urging our livestock farmers to keep an eye out for any signs of the disease and report any suspicions to their vet and the animal and plant health agency immediately, so we can work together to reduce the possible spread of bluetongue this summer."

The vaccination has to be given by injection twice, three weeks apart, in cattle and sheep, so it can take up to six weeks for the animal to be fully immune.

Bluetongue struck one farmer's cattle in Boughton Aluph, near Ashford, in 2007.

£5m loan fund launched

BUSINESSES in Kent are set to receive a £5 million boost over the next five years in a new package of funding to support new investment and jobs.

Kent County Council is launching the innovation investment loan, using funds from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

Charity chief a finalist

CHIEF executive of the Rochester Bridge Trust has been named as a finalist in a national award scheme.

Sue Threader is shortlisted in the principal of the year category of the Charity Times Awards, which celebrate best practice in the UK charity and not-for-profit sector.

Uni collects Ebola award

A TEAM led by bioscientists from the University of Kent has won the international Fight Against Ebola Award for research that identified new insights into the way the deadly virus works.

It received it from the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB).

Fox gets its head stuck

RSPCA officers had to rescue a fox who had got the top half of his body stuck in a watering can.

A team was called to the garden in Priestlands Park Road in Sidcup on Thursday morning. The animal was released and is being nursed back to health.



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Government stands by big-money plans

2. Lorry catches fire on M2

Severe delays for motorists on Friday

3. Drone delivers drugs

Daniel Kelly jailed for smuggling

The Essential Guide:



...to Dreamland

Everything you need to know about Margate's historic amusement park



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: The last of the Czech fighter pilots from Battle of Britain flies in Spitfire at Biggin Hill visit

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Top Three Blogs



1. Too reliant on phones

They're becoming an unhealthy obsession

2. Insignificant referendum

Does it really matter in the grand scheme?

3. Don't Tell the Bride

It's the same every episode, but we love it

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Should we bring back grammar schools?

- 1 Yes, new schools needed - 67%
- 2 Yes, in the form of annexes - 6%
- 3 No, they should stay banned - 27%
- 4 Don't know - 0%

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RISE: Since dropping the entry fee, crowds have flocked with 10,000 visiting last Saturday

Crunch talks for Dreamland

Administrators of struggling park will meet with creditors early next month to strike a deal

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

ADMINISTRATORS tasked with arresting the financial slump of the operators of Margate's Dreamland theme park say they are "certain there is a bright future for Dreamland".

A meeting has been called in a bid to thrash out an agreement over rising debts of almost £3 million owed to creditors by Sands Heritage Ltd, the firm that operates the revived park.

But creditors are facing receiving just a fraction of the money owed while there remains the very real possibility that it could be forced to close a little over a year since re-opening.

Creditors and administrators, Duff & Phelps, will meet on August 4 in an attempt to strike a deal with companies owed thousands by the operator.

Administrators will give a short overview of their findings and how they see the financial position, with the aim of retaining as much as possible.

Although settlement figures are likely to be low, KoS understands a deal is likely to be accepted, as creditors look to claw back as much money as possible rather than risk receiving nothing should it completely collapse.

Amendments are likely to be made to proposals put forward by administrators, which could take time, but bosses are hopeful of a relatively smooth resolution.

However, should they decline a settlement, which could be as low as 20p to the pound given the dire finan-



cial position of Sands Heritage, we understand it could put the future of Dreamland in jeopardy.

Assets would need to be stripped but administrators are desperate to avoid that situation, with the park as an entity worth much more than the sum of its parts.

Repayment is a complex process, with something of a hierarchy of creditors needing to be acknowledged, with secured creditors prioritised.

When a business becomes insolvent, sale of the specific asset, usually property, over which security is held, provides repayment for such a creditor.

This is usually paid in full, and then administrators make their way further down the list.

Benjamin Wiles, managing director of Duff & Phelps, said: "The administrators are assessing all available options for the company and Dreamland.

"We are certain that there is a bright future for Dreamland and are working with various stakeholders to provide the best outcome for creditors as a whole."

The situation is complicated further by Sands Heritage's acquisition of a loan of £600,000 from hedge fund company Arrowgrass, which is based in the Cayman Is-

lands, secured against ownership of the park.

This means that an agreement was made stating that should the operator fail to make the loan repayments, they will sign over full title guarantee to the finance company, therefore losing full control of the park.

However, Thanet District Council insists the terms of the lease demand a theme park is operated at the site.

Dreamland re-opened last year to great fanfare, but controversially the opening of the Scenic Railway, the showpiece ride at the park, was delayed until October.

The coming weeks and months represent prime time in terms of generating revenue for Dreamland, as families flock to Margate during the summer holidays to experience the park in its full glory for the first time since its re-opening.

Indeed last Saturday some 10,000 visitors made their way to Dreamland as the sun shone on Thanet - a record crowd.

Bosses announced last month the park is now free to enter, with a pay-to-ride scheme implemented.

Administrators say revenue raised during this peak period can be used to help pay off some of Sands Heritage's growing debt.



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Trust demise sparks debate over the future of county's academies

Tom Pyman reports on the decline of the Lilac Sky Schools Academy Trust, founded by a celebrated headteacher but described by one expert as 'one of the very worst academy chains operating in Kent'

THE demise of another multi-academy trust in Kent has again sparked a debate as to whether they should be dominating our education over the coming years.

Lilac Sky Schools Academy Trust (LSSAT) announced this week it was set to close, as questions of whether academies really are the way to go in future came to the fore once more.

Once heralded as the solution to key problems and giving good schools more autonomy, budget cuts and a broadening of the criteria have failed to deliver the required results across the board.

Is has led many to suggest they are becoming more like profit-making operations than purveyors of educational excellence. The government remains keen on all schools opting out of local authority control.

A letter was sent to parents by the new interim chair of LSSAT warning of "an essential strategic move for the future... to serve the needs of our children".

The trust runs five schools in the county, namely the Richmond, Morehall, Knockhall, Martello Grove and Thistle Hill Academies in Folkestone, Sheppey and Greenhithe.

Originally based in Essex, LSSAT was displaced following the failure of one of its secondary academies, and refusal by the Department for Education to allow it to set up a free school, so it looked to move its headquarters to Kent in 2015. It also managed the now-closed Furness Special School in Hextable where it ran up a deficit of £1.63m.

The school had a total of 31 students at the time of closure, meaning it was only 52 per cent full.

A Kent County Council report said: "Despite increased numbers of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), it is not a popular choice with parents, many of whom have declined offers of placements there for their children."

"Several years of low numbers have created an environment where costs are higher than the available funding, meaning there is a budget deficit that will worsen every year."

Education consultant Peter Read described it as "one of the very worst academy chains operating in Kent".

Mr Read, who runs the kentadvice.co.uk website, said: "It comes as no surprise to learn Lilac Sky is to be closed down by the regional schools' commissioner and all the schools to be passed over to other chains."

"I have looked at the backgrounds of a number of senior Lilac Sky staff and too many have a record of failure in previous schools. It now appears this policy may have contributed to the failure of the trust."

"The haste with which the decision to close the academies operation has been reached can be gauged by the previous decision to move the trust headquarters to the Thistle Hill Academy on Sheppey just a fortnight ago."

Christine Dickinson, divisional secretary for Kent at the National Union of Teachers told KoS it represented a worrying trend.

"We have heard of the trust's demise in Essex however this is a big step," she said.

"This is one of a number of trusts set up by people who have lost their previous jobs for one reason or another, and it's all rather odd."

"I think this kind of thing was always going to be happening because of the nature of the game - funding in education has been so drastically cut that even academies with a big bankroll are being stretched."

"These academy trusts are basically a business, and the new Ofsted chief [Amanda Spielman, controversially appointed against the wishes of a select committee] comes from a business background, not education."

"That underscores the whole attitude towards education, that it's a business and not putting children at the heart of it."

"I fear for the broader education in Kent because it has become much narrower, and with the funding cuts, soon we'll be in a position where only people who can afford it can access top quality education."

"I appreciate we're not the only area that needs money, the health service and other departments are struggling too, but we need more funding, it's as simple as that."

Lilac Sky was founded in 2009 by Trevor Averre-Beeson and Jane Fielding. Mr Averre-Beeson shot to fame for transforming the fortunes of inner-city Islington Green School in London - a school famous for providing the children who sang on Pink Floyd's Another Brick In the Wall hit.

He left in 2008, a year after being hailed as one of London's most influential figures in the Evening Standard newspaper.

But after setting up Lilac Sky offering a range of educational services, its run as a multi academy trust ran into trouble - despite its reputation initially ensuring strong relation-



FAILURE: LSSAT is set to close

ships with a number of local authorities - among them Kent.

Mr Read recalls how the director of education quality and standards at KCC, Sue Rogers, moved across to Lilac Sky as managing director in January 2015, as a sign of the strength of their relationship.

"Although like many of their senior staff, she did not last long, and five months later had been airbrushed out of the Lilac Sky website," he said.

Furness was not the only school the trust has had involvement with in the past, though, with a Deal college plunging from an 'outstanding' Ofsted report to being put into special measures in just three years, as Mr Read explains.

"Lilac Sky were heavily involved, assisting KCC, during the decline of

Castle Community College from Ofsted outstanding to special measures, but failed somehow to stop the rot."

"Headteacher Philip Bunn, who joined the school in 2011 at the peak of its performance, left suddenly in April 2014, shortly after the school was plunged into special measures in March 2014."

"However, he was clearly not to blame for the debacle, for he was subsequently hired by Lilac Sky as one of their four sponsor appointed trust board directors, as lead for safeguarding and is now an executive coach to a number of head teachers and senior leaders, as well as being a consultant leader on Lilac Sky's outstanding teacher diploma programme."

A spokesperson for the trust said of its decision to off-load its Kent primary schools: "This was clearly a very difficult decision to make, but was done so in the best interests of the children."

"We are also working closely with the principal of each school, as well as the new trusts, to ensure the children's education is not disrupted."

"All of the schools will finish the academic year as planned and be able to reopen for the new academic year in September."

A spokesperson for the DfE added: "Following discussion with regional schools commissioner Dominic Herington, Lilac Sky Schools Academy Trust has decided to transfer its nine academies to strong multi-academy trusts."

"We are now working urgently to facilitate this transfer and ensure that there is no interruption to children's education."



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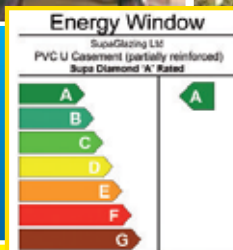
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Could minister herald new era of expanding grammars?

Kent's selective system has not been able to grow since Tony Blair banned new grammars in 1998. But Justine Greening, newly appointed as education secretary, has hinted she is at least prepared to listen to expansion plan arguments

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

PLANS to bring an expansion of a Canterbury grammar school to Herne Bay could be reignited, according to an education specialist.

Theresa May's new education secretary, Justine Greening, made headlines last weekend when she admitted she would be open-minded about permitting new selective state schools, though suggested they may not be 'old fashioned' grammar schools.

Her comments raised eyebrows, particularly as she is the first occupier of the role to have received a comprehensive, rather than grammar school education.

New grammars have been banned since 1998 and there was a major backlash when Ms Greening's predecessor, Nicky Morgan, gave the green light to Weald of Kent Grammar in Tonbridge to open a girls-only annexe in Sevenoaks at the end of last year.

Speaking on TV last week, Ms Greening said she was "open-minded" about the grammar debate, adding: "We need to be able to move this debate on and look at things as they are today and maybe step away from a more old-fashioned debate around grammar schools and work out where they fit in today's landscape."

Kent is one of the few authorities in the UK that still has a grammar school system.

And the glimmer of light could mean Canterbury's Barton Court Grammar could now revive its proposals for an annexe in Herne Bay – previously rejected by Kent County Council.

Education specialist and former Gravesend head teacher Peter Read explained: "There is certainly a case for an annexe in that area, because plans to build a grammar school go back more than 20 years."

"However, there was no support from KCC and a question of where the money was going to come from."

"The issue of where the money would come from remains, but politically, I don't think there would be a problem."

Roger Gough, head of education at KCC, also admitted it was now "possible".

"I think it's too early to draw any firm conclusions but it's encouraging to see someone whose mind is very open," he said.

"Our policy has always been that a blanket policy that you could not open a new gram-

mar school has undoubtedly made things much more difficult."

By creaming off the most talented pupils and proclaiming them the best, grammar schools deliver a damaging blow to the county's non-selectives.

With nigh on the top 30 per cent removed, many struggle to hit exam grade targets.

Yet the justification of keeping the selective system in place is that it promotes 'social mobility' and earlier this year, KCC published a draft report into a series of recommendations it wanted to take to ensure selective places were not so dominated by middle class pupils with parents capable of financing coaching to help them secure the pass mark in the Kent Test.

Joanne Bartley, of the Kent Education Network, a group opposed to selective education, told KoS she was disappointed by Ms Greening's comments. She explained: "We are very surprised about this because she has spoken about 'one nation Conservatism' and helping working class white boys get to university, but the recent social mobility report shows it's not helping poorer people."

"The more money you have, and the more you put into it, the more likely you are to succeed and that's going to stop people getting places, so we're very disappointed to hear this."

"Before they make any changes, we are going to push for them to research things which



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CHANGE: The controversial Sevenoaks grammar annexe, above, could be a recurring theme following comments by Justine Greening, inset. Former head teacher and education advisor Peter Read, below left, has suggested it could put plans for one in Herne Bay back on the table

they can do by looking at Kent."

Gordon Cowan is Labour group leader on CCC. He said: "I would like to see a tightening

down on this idea of having an 'annexe' 10 miles away from the school – what I've got in my back garden is an annexe.

"We seem to make it clear in Kent that the 11-plus is your first real test, one parents get very excited about, and it puts huge pressure on the child.

"If they fail that puts a real dent in their confidence throughout their life span, because that's the first hurdle they remember."

Despite some fierce opposition to developments in Sevenoaks, Mr Read says the reaction he has seen throughout the county has generally been a positive one.

"The new prime minister was in favour of promoting further grammar school annexes.

"Looking at the Weald of Kent, the new secretary may be more willing to amend the regulations so that the annexe in Sevenoaks can be mixed and addresses the greater need because of the pressure on boys' places.

"The Sevenoaks annexe is still a controversial proposal because it threatens to undermine the Knole Academy, so there certainly will be opposition to it, but the tide is flowing in its favour."

Sarah Shilling, who founded the Sevenoaks Grammar School Campaign, welcomed the comments but said a more radical change was needed.

"I think it's very good news if she actually means it," she told KoS.

"But we don't want any more expanding, we need a law change, and whether she's brave enough to deliver that, I don't know.

"We've got this annexe idea with girls' schools happy to expand, but no boys' schools want to expand.

"It's good that the government recognises what grammar schools give to children because David Cameron didn't understand."

That positivity was shared by Mr Read, who also has high hopes for the new education chief, following the widely unpopular reigns of her predecessors, Ms Morgan and Michael Gove.

"As she said herself, she has only been a week in the job but the messages she is sending out are far more friendly," he said.

"The teaching profession is one that has been under attack and it needs a champion, and there are suggestions – albeit no more than suggestions – that she may be willing to be that champion."

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Fighting Kent's corner in Brexit

Writing exclusively for Kent on Sunday, **Tim Farron**, leader of the Liberal Democrats casts a light on the impact of leaving the European Union on the county and why it is vital to keep the pressure on...

THE repercussions of Brexit are emerging: £5bn of legal costs alone, while the Conservative promise of £350m a week "savings" for the NHS has already been quietly abandoned.

But Kent could be especially hit because it relies heavily on trade with Europe and receives big sums from the EU. I will hold Theresa May to account, demanding she guarantees that Kent does not lose out.

Being Britain's gateway to Europe has been central to the county's prosperity, boosting trade and attracting foreign investors: 450,000 jobs in the south east, almost one-in-ten, are linked to trade with the EU, and over 24,000 jobs have been secured by investment from EU companies since 2003.

I will be demanding the May government keeps us in the Single Market to protect Kent jobs and investment.

Take Hush Heath, a Staplehurst vineyard that sells sparkling wine to the continent. Thriving businesses like these must be able to sell freely brilliant products to the world's most lucrative market. Tariffs on Kent goods would be a tax on Kent jobs.

This region benefits hugely from EU funding for infrastructure projects, rural communities and creating op-

portunities for young unemployed people. So just a few examples. Between 2007-2013, the south east received £2bn of loans for infrastructure and small businesses and £206m was given for training and apprenticeships for unemployed people.

Between 2014-2020 the south east was due to receive £324m, including £150m to help unemployed people into work and £29m for farmers and rural communities. This was due to include a £400m loan for widening the M25. Kent is not all hop gardens and prosperity, and the government must underwrite this funding.

Much local produce has been given special EU status, guarding against cheap imitations and helping promotion overseas. Examples include Whitstable oysters, East Kent Goldings and Kentish ale.

But it is not just about money. Kent benefits in so many ways from Europe.

Take catching criminals and terrorists. Cross-border security is vital to Kent. Thanks to the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) police can catch criminals across Europe and bring them to justice.

In the south east, the EAW has helped remove 701 criminals and brought 71 criminals to justice in the UK since 2010. A criminal who had



LEADER: Tim Farron, above left, says Kent's reliance on the EU may well be exposed as the country starts the process to extricate ourselves from the union following the decision to vote Leave in the recent referendum

tried to smuggle immigrants through Dover and then fled to Belgium was caught in 2011 using a EAW. The culprit was given five years at Canterbury Crown Court. We must maintain these security arrangements to keep us safe.

I will also fight to preserve European protection for things like beach

and air quality. But I realise people are especially concerned about the economy, with Brexit uncertainty slashing investment and growth forecasts.

Kentish people are paying for the reckless Conservative decision to bet the country's future on a rash referendum to hide internal divisions. The

Tories have just crashed the economy and have no plan for a Brexit Britain.

Kent is one of the engines of the UK economy. Please join my fight to protect it – and help me keep pressure on Theresa May to protect Kent jobs.

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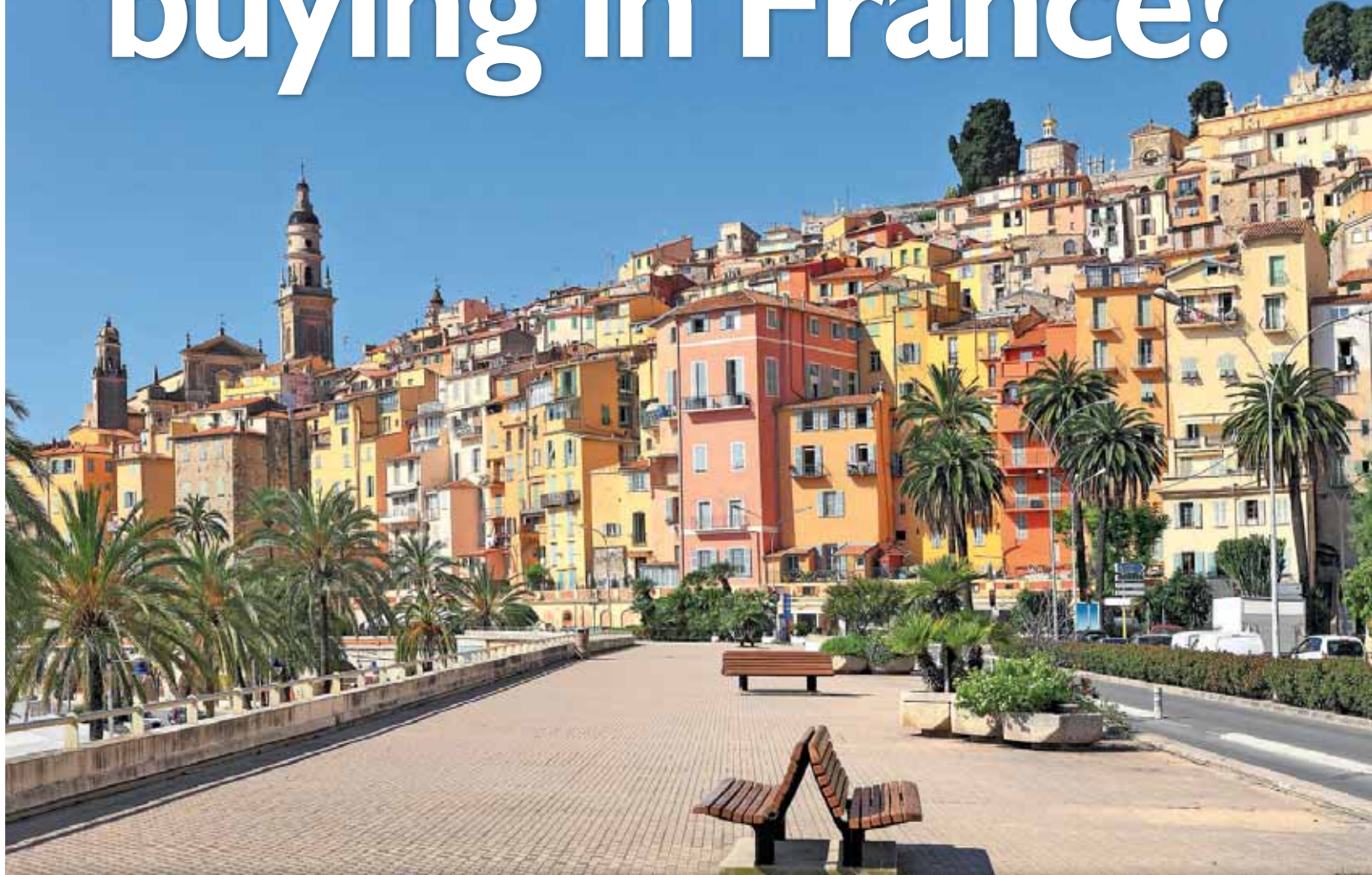


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How Churchill spawned bomb progress which became Trident

A professor at a Canterbury university takes a look back at what sparked the creation of our nation's nuclear deterrent and how the war-time hero was the man who set the tone for our ultimate defence...

AS THERESA May comfortably won her first vote in the House of Commons over the controversial issue of the nation's Trident nuclear defence programme, one university professor says none other than Winston Churchill was its architect.

The war-time leader, who lived in Chartwell, near Westerham, is best known for his deployment of conventional weapons during the Second World War.

But it was upon his instruction that Britain embarked on a strategy of developing a device so powerful in its destructive power that a nuclear weapon has only ever been used in anger twice – both in Japan to bring the Second World War to an end in 1945.

Kevin Ruane is a professor of modern history at Canterbury Christ Church University. He is currently putting the finishing touches to his book, *Churchill and the Bomb in War and Cold War*, which will be published by Bloomsbury on September 8.

He explains: "Returned to power in October 1951, the septuagenarian Churchill decided in the summer of 1954 that Britain, already an atomic power, should have its own hydrogen bomb.

"Despite the objections from several cabinet ministers, for whom the H-bomb, one thousand times more powerful than the A-bombs used against Japan in 1945, seemed like a weapon of genocide, Churchill got his way. Three years later, the UK graduated as a thermonuclear power. The H-bomb was Churchill's bomb, Trident its offspring."

Trident's renewal was backed overwhelmingly in the Commons with



CONVINCED: Winston Churchill, left, was certain mutually assured destruction would prompt a failure to use such weapons. Right, a Trident submarine



471 votes supporting it and just 116 against – among them Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Costing £31bn to replace, the deterrent effect and the thousands of jobs tied into the industry convinced many it could not be rejected. The clout of Britain as a significant nuclear power remaining persuasive. Something which motivated Winston Churchill.

Adds Prof Ruane: "When historians assess Churchill's H-bomb decision they usually stress his preoccu-

pation with national prestige; the H-bomb, a symbol as much a weapon, confirmed that Britain was still a major power.

"In addition, Churchill was convinced that the H-bomb would enhance the UK's overall deterrent and shield the country from danger.

"But danger from where? Most obviously, the USSR, the Cold War enemy. But Churchill was also very worried about the United States. His great fear, he confessed, was a US 'forestalling' nuclear attack on the Soviet Un-

ion to destroy its military-industrial base before it acquired bombers or rockets that could carry nuclear devastation to North America.

In 1954, the USA was safely beyond the range of Soviet bombers.

"Not so the UK, home to several American atomic bomber bases and thus in the 'bull's-eye' of retaliation, as Churchill put it, should a US nuclear blitz fail to wholly cripple the USSR.

"At the same time, Churchill was a nuclear visionary. A decade before

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) entered the Cold War lexicon, he predicted that if the 'advance of destructive weapons enables everyone to kill everybody else nobody will want to kill anyone at all'.

"Churchill, then, given his MADness, would probably have favoured renewing Trident. But he might also have invested Trident with a dual utility: as a deterrent to Putin's Russia and as a way of adding throw-weight to British influence in a Clinton or a Trump White House."



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Your guide to county's festival frenzy

From celebrating seafood to hops, rock to folk and literature to theatre, there's something for everyone...

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

ONCE upon a time, say festival and most people would immediately conjure up images of mud-soaked folk swigging back cider at Glastonbury.

But while music festivals have long since evolved from small concerns to major businesses, it is hard to escape a weekend this summer which does not have a festival taking place.

And don't make the mistake of thinking they're just music events.



From celebrating literature, theatre, food, drink, shellfish, hops and much more besides, the county is bursting with things to go and see and do.

A spokesperson for Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, said: "Festivals are very important to our tourism industry. They bring together residents and new people in our county every year to celebrate music, history, produce, performance, ancient traditions, or even just the – hopefully – good weather.

"Festivals also contribute to the local economy, as visitors frequently base holidays and short breaks around these events, and discover more about what Kent has to offer.

"Kent's size and diverse geography means we really can cater for everything – from big concerts in forests or in castle grounds to week-long seaside festivals and boutique food and drink festivities.

"The volume and variety of festivals that Kent hosts all year round is a great draw for visitors, and the connection each event has to its location's unique identity makes them very appealing.

"Many festivals pay homage to their Kentish roots and traditions, such as Broadstairs Folk Week, Whitstable Oyster Festival and Faversham Hop Festival.

"And the celebrations don't end



ATTRACTIONS: Whitstable's Oyster Festival (left) and the lantern parade at the Herne Bay Festival (above)

with the summer – autumn, winter and spring bring us flower festivals, celebrations on our heritage railways, the Dickens Festival in Rochester, huge arts and cultural events at Canterbury Festival and much more."

While some events such as Canter-

bury's Lounge on the Farm remains on a sabbatical – it has vowed to return next year – and Paddock Wood's Hop Farm extravaganza has pulled down two promoters after ticket sales failed to match the costs involved, it has cleared the way for new ones to

spring up to take their place.

So whatever your taste, and whether it's just one day, or a weekend in a field, there's something for everyone.

We take a look at some of those events taking place and what you can expect.

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BRANDS HATCH



MUSIC: Leefest began in a Bromley back garden and has now moved to farm at Edinbridge

Whitstable Oyster Festival **Where: Whitstable**

When: Friday, July 22 to Sunday, July 31

CELEBRATING the town's seafood, for which it has long been famous, The Whitstable Oyster festival features food fairs, music, dancing and other events running throughout the town during last week in July.

Starting life as a holy festival in Norman times, the event now attracts

80,000 people from around the UK and beyond. This year, visitors will be able to enjoy two weekends of headline live music performances and stand-up comedy evenings at child-friendly venue The Shuck, sample the town's produce at the Fisherman's Feast and enjoy music from local band The Cuban Brothers. A glittering firework display will round off the festivities on the final night.

Tickets: Events priced individual-

ly. More details at: whitstableoyster-festival.co.uk

Herne Bay Festival

Where: Herne Bay
When: Saturday, August 20 to Sunday, August 28

STARTING life in 1993 as a way of celebrating the town, the Herne Bay Festival is now one of the most successful community-focused events in

Kent. The programme features more than 100 events, including a children's parade, live music from local bands, a giant family picnic, the monster crab catching competition, talent contest Herne Bay's Got Talent and a fantastic fireworks display. This year's lantern parade – the culmination of the opening day's celebration – will have a Rio Carnival feel in celebration of the 2016 Olympics.

Tickets: The majority of events are free. More details at: hernebayfestival.com

Smugglers' Festival

Where: Little Mongeham, Deal
When: Thursday, September 1 to Sunday, September 4

SPECIALISING in world, psychedelic, jazz and folk music, the Smugglers' Festival is situated deep within the Kentish woodland, three miles outside of Deal – a town that was renowned for its smugglers. Visitors can enjoy woodland fireside gigs, morning maths lectures with Professor Appleblossom, secret gigs and secret bars as they explore the venue.

Continued on page 22

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Continued from page 21

The 2016 setlist includes Electric Jala-ba, This is the Kit, Will Varley, The Flamingods and Cocos Lovers.

Tickets: Adult weekend tickets £90, junior (ages 12-16) weekend tickets £50. More details at: smuglersrecords.com

WonderVille

Where: Rhodes Minnis, nr Canterbury

When: Saturday, July 30

SET to feature some of the country's top touring bands as well as local musicians, WonderVille makes its debut this summer. Lazy habits, Tankus the Henge and Crinkle Cuts are among the acts on the 2016 lineup. Visitors can enjoy more than just music, with opportunities on offer to take part in craft activities and interactive workshops, sample some of Kent's finest independent food stalls, visit the award-winning cider bar, enjoy handcrafted local artisan beer and experience the curious cocktail cabin.

Tickets: Adults £25, student concession ticket £12, teen ticket (12-18) £18. More details at: wondervillefestival.co.uk

LeeFest

Where: Edenbridge

When: Thursday, July 28 to Saturday, July 30

LEEFEEST started life in founder Lee Denny's garden when his parents went away on holiday in 2006. Some 150 people turned up to the first festival, but the event soon grew in stature and now attracts thousands of visitors. The venue was moved to Higham Hill Farm in 2010, and after a year out in 2015 the festival will re-



ECLECTIC: The Smugglers' Festival at Little Mongeham, Deal, boasts world, psychedelic, jazz and folk music

turn with a 'Neverland' theme to celebrate its tenth anniversary at John Darlings Farm. Acts confirmed for 2016 include Roots Manuva, Everything Everything, Ghostpoet, Shura and Little Sim.

Tickets: Thursday £21 adult and teen (13-16), Friday £52.50, Saturday £57.75; adult weekend ticket from £104, teen weekend ticket £52. More details at: leefest.org

Ramblin' Man Fair

Where: Mote Park, Maidstone

When: Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24

RAMBLIN' Man Fair is an annual

music festival celebrating classic and contemporary rock, progressive rock, and blues and country. Designed for rock fans, by rock fans, the festival kicked off in 2015 with an impressive range of acts, including Dream Theater, Saxon, Blue Oyster Cult and The Temperance Movement. The 2016 line-up includes legendary rockers Whitesnake, Europe and Terrorvision, as well as a host of other acts. An on-site beer festival is also available. Don't hang about though as it's on this weekend.

Tickets: Weekend tickets £130, one day £75. More details at ramblin-manfair.com.

New Day Festival

Where: Faversham

When: Friday, August 5 to Sunday, August 7

A NEW Day is another festival making its Kent debut this year, devoted to classic rock, prog-rock, roots and blues, and featuring Morris Dancers, Irish Dancers, craft stalls, food and well stocked bars. There are also a number of activities for children to enjoy, along with Daleks and other sci-fi characters providing entertainment for youngsters. Artists performing at this year's event include legendary punk band The Stranglers, Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson, prog-rock

pioneers Curved Air and Dr Feelgood's Wilko Johnson.

Tickets: Adult two-day weekend £82, youth (10-15) £30. Friday, adult £32, youth £16; Saturday and Sunday adult £43, youth £20. More details at anewdayfestival.com

Broadstairs Folk Week

Where: Broadstairs

When: August 5 to 12

BROADSTAIRS Folk Week features song and dance at venues throughout the town, with headline acts performing in a concert marquee situated in the centre. Acts confirmed for 2016 include Geoff Lakeman, Blackbeard's Tea Party, Steve Turner and Bristol Ceilidh Quartet. A special craft and music fair in Victoria Gardens features a wide variety of ceramics, clothing, musical instruments, paintings, jewellery and gifts, while there are a range of activities aimed at children taking place throughout the week.

Tickets: Prices vary by day and accommodation. More details at: broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

Faversham Hop Festival

Where: Faversham

When: Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4

FAVERSHAM Hop Festival started out in 1990 with the aim of recreating a hopping celebration as it would have been in the past when families flooded into the area to bring in the hop harvest; whereas nowadays the organisers strive to strike a balance between past and present. This year, events and exhibitions will celebrate the 800-year history of the hop industry in the Faversham area. A range of bands playing all manner of

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genres will perform at venues across town and on four different stages plus classic car shows and much more besides.

Tickets: Free to enter. More details at favershamhopfestival.org

Tenterden Folk Festival

Where: Tenterden
When: Thursday 29 to Sunday 2 October 2016

TENTERDEN Folk Festival is a four-day celebration of folk song, music, dance, crafts and traditions. Morris

dancers, barn dancers, sing-arounds, music sessions and folk clubs are all held at venues throughout the historic town. Visitors will also be able to enjoy special shows, a craft fair, street stalls, a music fayre, dance displays, a procession and various showcases. Steve Turner, Nick Dow and Pete Castle are among the musicians performing in 2016.

Tickets: Adult full weekend £48, under 16s £20. Some events are priced separately. More details at: tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Chilled in A Field, Paddock Wood

Where: The Hop Farm, Beltring.
When: Thursday, July 29 to Saturday, July 31

AN environmentally conscious, family-friendly festival, Chilled in a Field features live music, dance, a street food village, and an ale and cider festival bar. Highlights include glitter wrestling and the trademark all-night silent disco woodland party. The Egg, Tankus The Henge, She Drew The Gun and Cocos Lovers are among the acts set to perform at

this year's event. There are a wide range of activities for children, including a bouncy castle, circus skills sessions, theatre and dance workshops.

Tickets: Adults (inc. camping) £99, children (inc. camping) £25. Day tickets available from £25.

Create Festival, Ashford

Where: Victoria Park, Ashford
When: Saturday, July 23

ONE of the biggest free music festivals in Kent, Ashford's Create Festival attracts more than 13,000 people throughout the day. Young local acts perform alongside regional and national headline acts across a range of stages, while street theatre, market stalls, food and drink areas and children's rides complete the experience. David Bowie tribute act David Live is headlining the 2016 event, which will also see performances from Gentlemen of Few and Slam Cartel. A Victorian-themed Fountain Stage will celebrate the 175th birthday of George Parker, who donated the Hubert Fountain to Victoria Park. Adam Ant headlined last year.

Tickets: Free. More details at: createfestival.co.uk

Brogdale Cider Festival

Where: Brogdale, near Faversham

When: Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28

A CELEBRATION of all things cider-related, the Brogdale Cider Festival also features live music, cooking demonstrations and foraging walks. This year, professional chefs will be on hand to create cider-themed dishes, while foraging expert Michael

White will help to give visitors a better understanding of food in the wild. Rich Somers, the Old Country Crows and Rudy Warman are among the acts due to perform at the event.

Tickets: Adult £9, concession £8, child £5, family £23 (two adults and two children). More details at: ciderfestivalkent.co.uk

The Social

Where: Kent County Showground, Detling

When: Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10.

A BOUTIQUE music festival for those aged 18 and over, The Social was launched in 2013 with the aim of showcasing the world's greatest dance music. Andrew Weatherall, Eats Everything, Agoria and Bicep are set to perform at this year's event. Funfair rides and market stalls will also be provided, with an emphasis on serving locally produced food.

Tickets: From £39.50. More details at: thesocialfestival.com

Margate Soul Festival

Where: Margate

When: Friday, August 5 to Sunday, August 7

AN annual celebration of soul music, Margate Soul Festival encompasses ticketed large-scale live shows, free family friendly street performances and a varied mix of club nightlife starting at 8pm. Kathy Sledge, Soul II Soul, CeCe Peniston and Shirley Jones are among the acts set to perform this year across four stages and seven themed venues.

Tickets: £35 to £60. More details at: margatesoulfestival.co.uk

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Boris is lord of the manor after being crowned foreign secretary

Last time he was here he wanted to build an airport in the Thames Estuary. Now he has been given the keys to a stately home in the west of the county along with two of his Tory cabinet colleagues...

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

WE could be seeing a lot more of Boris Johnson in Kent after Theresa May's new foreign secretary was handed the keys to a luxurious Sevenoaks estate.

However, the former Mayor of London, and prominent Leave campaigner in last month's EU Referendum, has not been given free reign over Chevening House, traditionally home to occupiers of the senior cabinet position.

The prime minister has instead insisted use of the house be shared between Mr Johnson, Brexit secretary David Davis and international trade secretary Liam Fox.

Stretching some 3,500 acres between Sevenoaks and Biggin Hill, the occupier of the 115-room estate uses it in both an official and private capacity – it is also a location for government conferences when circumstances permit.

Outgoing foreign secretary Philip Hammond shared Chevening with former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, who was criticised for using the estate for 'wining and dining' celebrities and potential Liberal Democrat donors.

John Branton is the vice-chairman of Chevening Parish Council and has lived in the area for 10 years.

He told KoS there has been no sign of Mr Johnson and his colleagues just yet, but given past experience, we can expect them to arrive in the county soon enough.

"It's difficult to say how much they're going to use it," Cllr Branton said.

"In the past some foreign secretaries have used it more than others, it was very popular with Geoffrey Howe [who served under Margaret Thatcher's premiership] and Margaret Beckett [Tony Blair's foreign secretary].

"It will be interesting to see if Boris takes to it in the same way they did."

Coincidentally, the house is situated barely eight miles from the Orpington constituency of Mr Johnson's brother, Jo, who also serves as universities minister.

If and when the foreign secretary and friends do arrive at Chevening, Cllr Branton says it won't be much of a secret among locals.

"There's a lot of security but at the same time it's quite discrete.

"The house is right next to Chevening Church so on Sundays especially you can get quite close.

"You can drive up to the gates and it's so secure that instantly someone with a gun will appear and ask you what you're doing.

"I've done it myself, I've just had to say I'm looking for somewhere to park and then you have a chuckle



LAVISH: Chevening House is a Grade I-listed building and a popular retreat for ministers who have visited local pubs and restaurants

and you're sent on your way, but there's no doubt, it's very secure.

"There's nothing at all when they're not there, so for locals it's very obvious when they're in town."

The house is opened a limited number of times each year to local historical groups, other interest groups and Chevening Primary School, while its gardens are opened up to three times annually in support of local charities.

Cllr Branton also recalls how on one visit, Mrs Beckett visited Junahki, the Indian restaurant he used to own in Tunbridge Wells.

"She asked where it was possible to get a good curry and clearly she was prepared to travel for it."

Foreign secretaries clearly have a taste for Kentish food as Andy Clark, who works as both a police officer and a parish councillor, recalls.

"William Hague came down to the Bricklayers Arms [pub in Chipstead, about a mile from the house] and he was great company," he said.

"He had a meal with us and brought some beer for a charity event we were doing.

"He even popped his head round



COMING: Boris Johnson is the new foreign secretary

the kitchen saying his bread and butter pudding was the best he's ever had.

"I'm sure they'll all enjoy the house and we look forward to welcoming

them, and a few people are excited at the prospect of seeing Boris in the pub.

"But as locals we're all quite used to it really."

The estate can be traced back to the early thirteenth century when it is first referred to in contemporary documents.

The house was built by the 13th Lord Dacre between 1615 and 1630 before the house and estate were bought in 1717 by General James Stanhope, confidant of King George I and later his chief minister.

It was eventually passed onto Richard, the 7th Earl Stanhope, who in 1937, achieved his ambition of securing a cabinet post as first commissioner of works, where he had a major responsibility for organising the coronation ceremonies of 1937.

In 1938, Stanhope returned to the admiralty as First Lord where he selected personally those senior officers who were to hold the key naval commands at home and abroad during the Second World War.

On the outbreak of war, Neville Chamberlain appointed Stanhope as Lord President of the Council.

Realising the advantage provided to the prime minister by Chequers, the country estate in Buckinghamshire, Lord Stanhope decided that the facilities at Chevening could offer a future cabinet minister similar advantages.

He arranged for Chevening House, which remains a Grade I listed building, and the estate to pass on his death to a trust and thus be preserved for the nation in perpetuity.

The house was in poor condition when it was handed to the trust and so the trustees carried out substantial repairs to the main block.

The external red brickwork was reinstated and a new roof constructed in work which received a special award in the European Architectural Heritage Year 1975.

Management is the responsibility of the trustees, whose members include the Lord Privy Seal, the director of the Victoria and Albert Museum and appointments by the prime minister and environment secretary.

All costs of the house and estate are met from the trust's own resources arising from Lord Stanhope's bequest.

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Family's brave struggle with son and his very rare heart condition

Tom Pyman reports on the story of four-year-old William Cotterill who suffers from Barth syndrome, a condition which affects just 200 people worldwide. They speak of life and the challenges they face...

THE mother of a young Gravesend boy suffering a rare, life threatening genetic disorder has lifted the lid on her son's remarkable daily struggles.

Four-year-old William Cotterill was born with Barth syndrome, which causes heart problems, muscle weakness, extreme fatigue and an increased risk of severe infection.

He has spent the last 18 months in and out of hospital, at times fighting for his life.

His problems started when he was just five months old, and became sweaty, clammy and upset while feeding, which doctors thought was malnutrition.

Mum Sharon, 43, had experienced a normal pregnancy and although William had initial breathing and feeding difficulties after birth, Sharon and husband Steve, thought they had a healthy baby.

Then on January 30, 2012, on returning from dropping her eldest daughter Emily, then aged five, at school, William became listless, clammy, grey, floppy and clearly unwell.

Mrs Cotterill rushed him to hospital where blood tests were taken and he was hooked up to the usual monitoring equipment.

During the night, a heart murmur was detected and he was blue-lighted straight away to the paediatric intensive care unit at the Evelina Hospital in London.

Doctors believed a virus had at-

tacked his heart, resulting in heart failure and wet lungs which was affecting his breathing, with any movement putting a strain on his tiny heart.

Mrs Cotterill recalls: "There was a team of six doctors working to save William's life.

"Steve and I were so shocked we looked on in disbelief.

"We went from being told our baby had malnutrition to being told he had heart failure.

"His heart was so enlarged; it was giving up. William was intubated [flexible plastic tube into the trachea (windpipe) to maintain an open airway] to take the pressure away from his heart.

"It was heart-breaking to see William hooked up to so many tubes.

"He had 24-hour nursing care and the medical team, under consultant paediatric cardiologist Professor Qureshi, saved his life.

"The professor thought it most likely William had a virus attacking the heart but he suspected there was something else underlying.

"It took a few months to find out that was a genetic disorder."

After three weeks in hospital William's condition had stabilised enough to be allowed home and he was fed via an NG tube [a nasogastric tube which passes into the stomach via the nose], as drinking from a bottle put more pressure on his heart.

This stayed in for 14 months with his mother feeding him just two millilitres at a time, while keeping copious notes.

"This was so exhausting," she said. "It was a very emotional time when the doctors said we could take William home. How could we manage at home?"

"Then on March 7, William went rapidly downhill.

"He was back in the Evelina paediatric intensive care, this time on a CPAP machine which gives the heart a rest as his lungs were also failing.

"Doctors told us then they may need to transfer him to Great Ormond Street Hospital for a heart transplant, but then William seemed to pick-up as the medicines started to work."

Professor Qureshi pushed for genetic testing which William and his parents eventually underwent and in early April, 2013, they received the "dreaded phone call" as Mrs Cotterill describes it.

Barth syndrome is a rare, life-threatening genetic disorder that affects only boys, with 200 known cases worldwide.

Most boys with Barth syndrome will have heart failure and are at risk of sudden cardiac arrest.

The main other symptoms are immune system problems, muscle weakness, extreme and debilitating fatigue, growth delay and feeding problems.

Barth syndrome is an X-chromosome linked genetic condition, usually transmitted from mother to son, although there are cases where the faulty gene occurs as a one off.

There is a 50 per cent chance that a boy born to a female carrier will have Barth syndrome, whereas girls born to a carrier have a 50 per cent risk of being carriers themselves.

"We had never heard of Barth syndrome," his mother said.

"The geneticists looked into my family history and after testing my mother they found the disorder started with me – I was a carrier of the faulty gene, something I still haven't come to terms with yet.

"We were referred to the Bristol Children's Hospital which has the only Barth clinic in Europe.

"We spent two days there in April 2013, seeing Professor Colin Steward, specialist Barth consultant, a dietician and cardiologist among others.

"Since then they have been able to maintain William's heart condition with medication and careful monitoring.

"William suffers from continuous fatigue and muscle weakness. He is wobbly and walks with a wobbly gait.

"His growth is delayed – he's a year behind which is very typical in Barth boys.

"William continually grazes on food, which is typical for a boy with Barth's, as they can't eat a large amount in one sitting.

"He also really loves spicy any salty foods, curries, anything flavour-some."



UNITED: Older sister Emily and dad Steve with William

One significant health problem for children with Barth syndrome is the increased risk of infection and William is extra prone to ear and throat infections in particular.

"William's condition will never get better," Mrs Cotterill said.

"Without daily heart medication his heart would crash. Even if he did have a heart transplant the new heart could be attacked by Barth's.

"We have heard of boys who have had two or three heart transplants. It is frightening. You just learn to cope. You have bad days and then great days, especially if he reaches a milestone."

At the moment William attends a nursery for a few hours a week, with one-to-one support.

He gets tired very quickly and is sensitive to noise – wearing ear defenders when the noise becomes too much for him.

For long walks William travels in a buggy, but as he grows he will need to move to a wheelchair.

In September, William will start mainstream primary school with support, starting for a few hours a day.

The family has raised around £5,000 for the Barth Syndrome Trust, through raffles, slimming and alcohol free challenges and Steve Cot-

terill's dedication to marathon running.

So far the IT project manager, 46, has completed 42 marathons, including five back-to-back.

The charity has been a source of support for all the family and will this year receive a grant to fund the family activity weekend and information day, which provides educational workshops and social interaction for parents, while their boys take part in activities at an outdoor centre.

Parents will receive updates about advances in treatments, assistance with education issues and benefits.

"It will be a fantastic weekend," Mrs Cotterill added.


"We are all in the same boat and we will benefit so much from the support, workshops and talks, while the boys have fun."

The family are helping to raise awareness with children's charity Genetic Disorders UK and their annual fundraising day, Jeans for Genes Day.

■ Jeans for Genes takes place on Friday, September 23, it invites everyone to wear their jeans to work or school in return for a donation, with can be made at the website jeansforgenes-day.org.



LOVE: Mum Sharon Cotterill and little William during a family day out



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Enjoy live entertainment both nights at the Thatcher's Hotel in the heart of the Surrey countryside just a short drive from Guildford. In November there is Dave Grant, ex-Paper Lace, and Vicki Lambert as Dusty Springfield. In January, Fortunes lead singer Eddie Mooney and Glen Leon as Tom Jones take to the stage. There are plenty of local attractions to explore during the day including Guildford Cathedral, The Hogs Back Brewery and Polesden Lacey. Further afield, Portsmouth with its Gunwharf Quays outlet shopping village and Spinnaker Tower is about an hour's drive away.

INCLUDED: Entertainment • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • Free Parking



3 nights
half board
PLUS from
£229_{pp}

Free Drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

Back to the 60s

Premium Carry on New Year Party
Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Friday, 6 January, 2017 - Quote: NY1-2-KOS

Join us for a private party that extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane - for over 40s only - at Warner Bembridge, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party, lots of nostalgic fun and Free Drinks every night. We've lined up a super entertainment programme featuring tributes to the Beatles, the Stylistics and Tom Jones plus the ever-popular team pantomime.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - room in main hotel upgrades available • Return car ferry & Free Parking



Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

2 nights
half board
from
£139_{pp}

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5 AUGUST
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Edison Lighthouse

17 MARCH
Union Gap &
Vanity Fare

60s Party Breaks

4-Star Hinckley Island Hotel, Leics

Fri, 5 Aug, 2016, £139pp; Fri 17 Mar, 2017, £159pp
Quote HK-KOS

Join us for a private party break featuring top 60s bands at the 4-star Hinckley Island Hotel nestled in the heart of Leicestershire near Nuneaton and Market Bosworth. Relax in the hotel's indoor pool and fitness suite, the Triumph Sports Bar and Piazza Lounge Bar, or venture out to nearby attractions, before dinner and a fun-packed evening both nights.

INCLUDED: Entertainment • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Free use of leisure facilities • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • Free Parking



£1 Drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

2 nights
half board
£129_{pp}

Seaside 60s Sounds in West Sussex

24 March, 2017 • Quote: WG3-KOS

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment from Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) plus Vicki Lambert as Dusty Springfield. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: Happy Hour £1 drinks from 7pm to 11pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • Live entertainment both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts



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55" Curved UHD Smart TV

Model No: UE55KU6500UXXU

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- Auto Depth Enhancer, Silver

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LOCAL: Jamie Glass, James and Rob Simpson from Sittingbourne and Oliver Nunn from Hythe make up Get Inuit

Get Inuit set to rock LeeFest as festival season heats up

Meet the Sittingbourne band who jumped from the classroom to the big stage

LEEFEST kicks off next week, welcoming a range of artists to perform in its biggest show yet, as The Neverland comes to John Darlings Farm, near Edenbridge.

The festival began a decade ago in Lee Denny's Beckenham back garden as an act of teenage rebellion, and has gone on to act as something of a springboard for some of Britain's top bands.

Hoping to follow in their footsteps is the four-piece Get Inuit, composed of Jamie Glass and brothers James and Rob Simpson from Sittingbourne, and Oliver Nunn from Hythe.

The quartet met at Borden Grammar School and describe themselves as similar to 90s Brit Pop and Grunge - "a mix between Wheezer, the Beach Boys and Nirvana," Glass told KoS.

"It's starting to become serious and a bit like a full-time job.

"We released our first music last year and are hoping to launch an EP in October but festival season is a great opportunity to get our name out there."

His band's rapid rise meant Glass had to quit his job in a classroom at Minterne Community Junior School last Christmas, and after receiving a grant from PRS Foundation, the band were given the green light to record an album.

Playing LeeFest though, Glass says, is unquestionably one of Get Inuit's highlights thus far.

"I think it's going to be amazing," he said.

"It's relatively local to us and you get that extra buzz because people are more aware of you, so you have 10 per cent more energy, and it's a pretty good line-up this year."

LeeFest boasts Circa Waves, Lianne La Havas and Everything Everything as headliners this summer, and has previously welcomed the likes of Little Comets.

Organisers have stressed the importance of finding the balance between allowing it to grow organically but maintaining the intimate charm that made it unique in the first place.

"We've been growing and growing and to play there will be huge," Glass added.

"We're all in our 20s so we've still got energy but we're old enough to know better.

"The scene that we are on, we understand how things are, but we're also level-headed because we have all been working jobs so we have to to really work for this.

"We've got in from shows at 4am and then gone to work at 7am, it

hasn't been easy."

A truly unique festival, LeeFest Presents The Neverland is described as an immersive, kaleidoscopic world of creativity, reckless abandon and the undiminished desire to never grow old.

Across three main stages, 12 music venues and six immersive venues, The Neverland has it all, whether that be the pesky pirates patrolling Skull Ridge with its decadent Bomb Crater Rave, the lunatic lost boys in The Neverwoods Treehouse Stage or mesmerising mermaids glistening through Mermaids Lagoon with its decked real life beach party, there's a story and an experience around every corner.

The festival takes place from Thursday to Saturday and tickets are available at <http://www.leefest.org/>

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Women Seeking

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KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curly figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. Text only Mailbox: 5512493

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

TAMARA, Indian woman, Muslim, 43, golden brown skin, long black straight hair, WLTm male in his 40s. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423153

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 421657

WELL travelled widow, 70 years young, GSOH, lively and outgoing, lots of interests including walks, bowls, socialising and the theatre, WLTm similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423029

JANE young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

LISA, fun loving and free, WLTm passionate, broadminded male, any age, discreet honest, seaside location. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422877

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363

BLACK professional female seeks professional/tall Lebanese or Egyptian or Indian (must be fair skinned man)... for marriage. Text only Mailbox: 5373562

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

KAY, 66, slim blonde, 5'5, very active, loves travel, outdoor life and much more. Seeks white guy 60-69 in Reading area. Text only Mailbox: 5312512

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunet, 34yrs, own house/car with gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 422415

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

FELICITY, well educated, sophisticated lady, 38yrs, happily married and looking for a distraction with a man 30+, must be discreet. Text Only Box: 4023417

MARIA 57, likes gym, outdoors, wildlife, seeking nice male for nights out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417573

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

LAURA, single mum, 29yrs, blue eyed blonde, fair skinned, pretty, Lonely and seeking adult company when the kids are in bed! ACA. Text only Mailbox: 4161735

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411

50YRS, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469

FEMALE, blue eyes, slim and pretty, from South Africa, young fifties, seeking a sincere, retired gentleman, who resides close to the sea. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

EARLY 70s, young at heart widow, likes dancing, eating out and in, pub lunches, theater and cinema, keep fit, the sun, WLTm gent 65-75, with similar interests. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421761

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel. WLTm similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

WIDOW would like to meet a gent 64-74yrs with a good sense of humour, I love dancing, cinema, theatre, pub lunches, all the normal things. There must be someone out there and I live in Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418277

YOUNG at heart lady, 60s, genuine, seeks warm, down-to-earth gentleman, similar age, for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420773

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

YOUNG 56 year old lady, gosh, 5ft5, larger lady, affectionate, likes eating out, films, music, socialising, looking for a relationship with a genuine, honest, loving, romantic man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421363

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTm a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

SUSAN 44, blonde hair, well educated, professional, GSOH, likes music, travel, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414069

SLIM blonde lady, very young 66, active, fun loving, many interests, seeks unattached white guy, 60-68, Reading area. Text only to mailbox: 5312512

CAROLE 52, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448

GEORGE you left Carole a message but I did not get your phone number, please call again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380942

KAY, young 66, widow, slim, blonde, 5'5, GSOH. Very active, loves travel, outdoor life and loads more looking for white male. Text only to mailbox no: 5312512

LORNA, Afro-Caribbean lady, retired nurse, late 60s, seeking similar aged gentleman, n/s, someone who is kind and honest, looking for friendship. Croydon area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420183

DAISY 50, WLTm nice guy 45-59 for discreet friendship maybe more. Likes going for a drink, rock music and holidays. Text only to Mailbox no: 5082641

CHANTELE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

PAUL, 53, business man, genuine, likes eating out, films, music, holidays and having fun, WLTm a similar loving, caring female, age and looks unimportant, for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422521

MALE, 42, fit, active, stocky, seeks larger lady, 40-50ish, for NSA fun, Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422481

PAUL, 46, 5ft 8ins, 14st, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks Miss Right/soul mate, friend and lover. 30-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379206

MALE 48, own business, average looks, medium build and looking for love. Must like the good things in life, 30-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390746

PASSIONATE male missing female companionship, would you like to join me in discreet fun and adult humour? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406611

PAUL 51, likes meals out, music, weekends away, seeking female to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413479

ALAN, 56, single, from Brighton, looking for a lady, 50-59, who's nice and easy to get along with, and would be interested in going out for a drink and a meal and a chat then give me a call! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421955

MATURE male seeks female, any age/status not important for casual fun. Nice flat, nice car. Witney. Text only Mailbox: 5467178

48YR old male, seeks female, 30-60 who enjoys the good things, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, holidays, weekends away etc. East Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386756

MARK, 50, handsome, great physique, 5ft10, seeking a lady, 50-75, for morning or afternoon fun, chats and fantastic passion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422945

JOHN, Sussex gentleman, 6ft, very tactile, seeks lady, 30-60, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422903

BEN, 48, musician, nice looking, fit, 5ft10, intelligent, caring, charming, clean-cut image, seeks lady any age/looks who requires daytime, discreet, very passionate fun meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421399

PAUL 51 genuine WLTm female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5447746

RYAN 50yrs, 5ft 9ins, medium build, considered attractive, N/S, lives London, loves Eastbourne, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404739

SLIM Jamaican male, 68, n/s, likes walking, theatre, cinema and holidays, seeks slim to medium build West Indian lady, 65-68, n/s, for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422629

WELL travelled, tall, fit widower in his 70's living in mid Sussex, seeks a lively widow for outings, stimulating conversation. Text only Mailbox: 5473939

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JACK, 55, good looking, fit and in shape WLTm broadminded lady, any age for social and relaxation interludes. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

PAUL, 53, business man, genuine, likes eating out, films, music, holidays and having fun, WLTm a similar loving, caring female, age and looks unimportant, for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422521

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, separated, have grown up teenagers, lives alone, works full time, looking for that special someone that will lead to a LTR and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421943

THOMAS athletic, easygoing, likes sports, meals out, cinema, nights out, seeks female, 40-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388192

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MATURE male seeks female, any age/status not important for casual fun. Nice flat, nice car. Witney. Text only Mailbox: 5467178

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MARK, 50, handsome, great physique, 5ft10, seeking a lady, 50-75, for morning or afternoon fun, chats and fantastic passion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422945

JOHN, Sussex gentleman, 6ft, very tactile, seeks lady, 30-60, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422903

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PAUL 51 genuine WLTm female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5447746



76YR old

widower, ex military/air lines, likes boating, motor cycling, seeks Tinkerbell to make me laugh again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409201

OUTGOING friendly guy seeks similar female to share good times with. Text only Mailbox: 4915263

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, looking for female, 39-51, with very GSOH, loyal, honest, caring, single mum welcome, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422315

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, separated, have grown up teenagers, lives alone, works full time, looking for that special someone that will lead to a LTR and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421943

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PAUL 51 genuine WLTm female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5447746

PAUL 51 genuine WLTm female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5447746

LADY, 70+, sought by caring and affectionate 70 year old male, for long term, intimate relationship, initially daytime only, larger lady very welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421995

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Jim Davidson explores highs and lows of his 40-year career

By Simon Allin

Simon.Allin@archant.co.uk

VETERAN comedian Jim Davidson is to explore the highs and lows of his 40-year career in a new stage show.

Written and directed by Mr Davidson, 40 Years On, charts the entertainer's odyssey from his breakthrough on New Faces in 1976 to winning Celebrity Big Brother in 2014.

The production opens in October and will play 22 dates across the UK, coming to Margate in November.

"I'm very much looking forward to sharing 40 Years On with audiences in theatres across the country," Mr Davidson said.

"The piece is an honest and raw reflection of my life over the last 40 years both in the spotlight and personally.

"Much of my life has been lived out with the nation watching, so what better way to set the record straight and hear the stories but from my perspective and it in my own words."

Born in London in 1953, Mr



COMEDIAN: Jim Davidson's show 40 years On is coming to Margate in November

Davidson's first spell in the lime-light came in 1976, when he won TV talent show New Faces.

Since then he has carved out a successful career as the host of hit prime-time family TV shows such as The Generation Game and Big Break.

His talents as an actor are also well known, and he has topped the bill in many theatres in London's West End and across the UK.

As a film actor, he has starred alongside John Malkovich in Colours Me Kubrick.

The star has also found himself embroiled in controversy on several occasions due to the irreverent nature of his comedy.

In 2013, he was arrested by officers investigating historical sexual offences, although no further action was taken against him.

Mr Davidson is highly regarded

for his charity work, and he was awarded an OBE for services to charity in 2001.

He founded the British Forces Foundation in 2000 and has entertained troops across the world, while his Care After Combat charity helps to support veterans.

He will be appearing at Margate Winter Gardens at 8pm on November 18, with standard tickets priced at £23.

Castle hosts classic operas

CLASSIC operas Carmen and The Marriage of Figaro are to be performed at Hever Castle this summer.

Gilbert and Sullivan's Ruddigore will also be shown at the venue in August.



Cockney Rebel stars tour

COCKNEY REBEL frontman Steve Harley is back on the road with his acoustic trio, which includes two of his former bandmates, Barry Wickens and James Lascelles.

The Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me) singer will appear at the Assembly Halls, Tunbridge Wells on November 2.

Miles Jupp in Margate

AWARD-WINNING stand-up comedian Miles Jupp is heading to Kent on his latest UK tour, Songs of Freedom.

The radio star will appear at Margate's Theatre Royal at 7.30pm on October 12.



Church tower opening

ST PETER'S Church Tower in Sandwich will open to the public for the first time this month, enabling visitors to enjoy views across the historic town.

Soundscapes and interactive activities have been developed to enhance the experience, with the tower set to open on Saturday, July 30.

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Top dogs in Tonbridge

TONBRIDGE'S top dogs are to strut their stuff in front of special guest Cheryl Baker at the town's dog show.

It will take place this Sunday (July 24) at Tonbridge Race-course Sportsground.



Fun and games at The Mall

TWO weeks of fun activities including flag-themed workshops and a meet-and-greet with Kent Life's Mister Moo will entertain youngsters at The Mall, Maidstone.

The events are to run until August 5, while a special medal hunt will be held throughout the summer.

Castle putting on a show

CLASSIC 1980s adventure Back to the Future will be shown against the beautiful backdrop of medieval Tonbridge Castle on Sunday.

Adult tickets are priced at £13.50 and children's at £9.



Victorian dream tour

LOCAL historian Christoph Bull is to host a Victorian Dream-guided tour of Gravesend's Wellington Street and area this Monday.

Those attending the tour should meet at 11.30am outside the former Post Office, opposite the Clock Tower. The cost is £4 per person.

It's just a flesh wound, as Spamalot heads in

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A PRODUCTION of Monty Python's acclaimed Spamalot heads into Tunbridge Wells next month.

Based on the movie, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, the show is being staged and performed by local performers in what is hoped will be a homage to one of the world's most loved comedy teams.

It runs from August 26 to September 3 at the Trinity Theatre.

The show, directed by John Martin and David Fawcett, will feature numerous references to Monty Python's Flying Circus television skits like the Lumberjack Song, Spam, and the Dead Parrot Sketch, while some cherished musicals are skewered along the way including a spoof of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Fiddler on the Roof, West Side Story, Les Misérables, and The Producers.

Co-director John Martin, artistic director at the Trinity, said: "I am delighted to be able to



bring this fun and madcap show to Trinity and it is the biggest and most ambitious production of mine so far with a company of 16, a full set including 'a very expensive forest' and a total of 116 costumes."

David Fawcett added: "I have grown up with Monty Python's humour and their classic sketches and I'm really excited about playing King Arthur in what is one of my favourite musicals. I'm also looking forward to being onstage at Trinity for the first time

in many years."

The original musical, co-created by Python Eric Idle, hit Broadway in 2005 and received 14 Tony Award nominations. During its initial run of 1,500 performances, it was seen by more than two million people and grossed more than \$175m. It has subsequently played to sell-out crowds at London's West End, and successfully toured the regions in both the UK, across the US and in Europe.

Tickets are on sale now, prices start from £15.



VENUE: Trinity Theatre will host the production next month



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Was Force strong with Star Wars Celebration?

Chris Britcher headed to London's ExCel Centre last weekend for a knees-up for a galaxy far, far away

THERE is, let's not suggest otherwise, any problem with liking, if indeed not loving, the Star Wars movies.

For those of a variety of ages, they were era defining. If you were born in the early 1970s, then your school pencil case wasn't worth looking at unless it contained a variety of character pen tops, stormtrooper rulers and those packs of trading cards which came complete with a strip of bubble gum.

There is, however, a fine line between loving the franchise and spending your adult life letting your children go hungry so you can snap up an original boxed, mint, Princess Leia with posable breasts from a bloke on eBay for the equivalent cost of a

month's mortgage payment.

Not, I should stress, that the thousands who flocked to London's ExCel Centre for the three day Star Wars Celebration extravaganza would stoop so low. But I bet many of those who queued up overnight to see some of the stars of the movies wouldn't rule out such a sacrifice. There is, it is true, some sweeping stereotypes that this event has looming over it.

Celebration is a rather remarkable event. In many respects it is not dissimilar to the Kent County Show. You queue up for ages to get in, you shell out a high ticket price, and then you expose yourself to a masterclass in money making. Everywhere you turn there are people trying to extract a few more pounds. From limited edi-



PROPS: Stormtroopers from new Rogue One movie were on display

tion posters to full replica costumes of main characters – so you too can dress up as Chewbacca when the mood takes you – it is as tough a mission to avoid dipping into your pocket as it was to retrieve those ruddy Death Star plans.

For many the big draw was the chance to actually spy some of the original cast members.

A panel session, hosted by Warwick Davis with Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) was an entertaining hour, as was the chance to watch Ray Park (Darth Maul) go through his paces in the same huge arena.

And it was easy to spot the likes of Anthony Daniels (C3PO), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca) and Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett) and a selection of

people who we are reliably informed were inside some of the weirder alien costumes. Some rather more for the obsessed than the casual observer.

I thought a picture of myself and my two sons with Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) would be a great treat. A quick look at the prices however, kicked that into touch.

Want to spend 30 seconds in the company of the finest fictional Jedi and have your picture with him? Well it will set you back £175 each. Yes. Each. For three of us that would have been £525. For a laminated print. You weren't allowed to all be in one picture for £175. And that doesn't include an autograph... think of that for a moment. It's enough to turn Yoda a funny colour.

Craft and design show

ACTIVITIES for all the family will be held at The Weald of Kent Craft and Design Show, which returns to Penshurst Place this September.

Craft-makers' demonstrations, food and drink, a plant nursery and a garden display will all be at the show for visitors to enjoy, along with a range of workshops and marquees.

The show will run from September 9-11.

Roald Dahl book event

A ROALD Dahl-themed event is being held by the county's libraries to encourage children to read books during the summer.

Youngsters taking part will need to borrow and read any six books over the summer to be in with a chance of winning treats and surprises.

They can sign up at their local library for the event, which runs until September 17.

Magic of Ol' Blue Eyes

A FRANK SINATRA tribute act will recreate the magic of Ol' Blue Eyes as he celebrates the golden anniversary of the famous recording Sinatra Live at the Sands.

Stephen Triffitt will perform classic hits such as Mack the Knife, New York, New York, My Way, That's Life and Under My Skin when he appears at The Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, on Sunday, October 16.

Tickets are available from 01892 530613.

Book artist drops in

CHILDREN'S book illustrator Rob Biddulph will be reading stories and drawing at a special event in Bluewater next month.

The award-winning art director of the Observer magazine won the Waterstone Children's Book Prize last year for his first book, Blown Away.

He will appear at Waterstone's Bluewater at 11am on Monday, August 29.

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Enjoy festive feast at Thorley's

ENJOY a fabulous Christmas feast in surroundings to relish at Thorley's fantastic five pubs.

Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, The Tartar Frigate – Harbour Street, Broadstairs, CT10 1EU – offers stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs. Call 01843 601636 or visit www.tartarfrigate.co.uk.

Award winning family pub The Captain Digby – Whiteness Rd, Broadstairs, CT10 3QH – really knows how to make your celebration go with a swing and enjoys a fabulous location overlooking Kingsgate Bay. Call 01843 867764 or visit www.captaindigby.co.uk.

Gastro pub The Charles Dickens – 5-6 Victoria Parade, Broadstairs, CT10 1QS – serves fantastic food guaranteed to make your Christmas special. Call 01843 603040 or visit www.charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk.

The Pegwell Bay Hotel – 81 Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, CT11 0NJ – offers glorious views from its clifftop location and is the perfect place to rest on a crisp Christmas afternoon. Call 01843 599 590 or visit www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk.

While the Oak Hotel – 66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8LN – has wonderful views of the spectacular marina and the Royal Harbour. Call 01843 583 686 or visit www.oakhotel.co.uk

Get into the festive spirit with a party at Baypoint

CHRISTMAS is the perfect excuse for a party – so why not come to Baypoint for your festive celebrations?

Guests have the choice of two impressive rooms at this superb venue, which is conveniently located between Thanet and Sandwich, with free onsite parking for 150 vehicles.

Head chef Simon will prepare a delicious three course meal, with a choice of starters, mains and desserts – including the traditional

turkey dinner, with all the trimmings.

The celebrations will not stop with the food, with a DJ set to play live music until midnight.

Christmas at BayPoint will run every Friday and Saturday night from December 2 and 3, at a cost of £32 per head, which includes decorations and crackers.

To book your Christmas party, call 01304 613022 or email enquiries@baypointclub.co.uk.



Stylish celebrations are in order at Prince's Golf Club

CELEBRATE the festive season in style at Prince's Golf Club.

Guests will be able to enjoy a wonderful three-course meal, followed by a disco, and party on till midnight.

Highlights include the Salmon Gravalax starter served with salt baked beetroot, a traditional turkey main course or fillet of cod, festive favourite Christmas Pudding and Dark Chocolate Delice.

The 2 AA Rosette Brasserie on the Bay is open each day in December for festive lunches from

£15.50pp, and will cater for groups from two to 50 people.

For something really special, Links Suite at the Lodge is a stylish private dining room that is perfect for groups up to 22 people. The head chef has compiled a wonderful festive menu with a twist. Prices range from £50pp available at lunch or dinner.

Contact Ali McGuirk at Prince's for further details or to make a booking. Call 01304 611118 or email at reservations@princesgolfclub.co.uk.



Indulge yourself at Eastwell

ENJOY Eastwell Manor's renowned decorations and real Christmas trees from November 25.

The Manor and Pavilion Restaurant will be including seasonal dishes on their menus throughout the festive period. Afternoon tea with Christmas touches will be served by the crackling log fires.

Events include a Masquerade Ball, Murder Mystery Evening, Vegas Night and Motown Evening.

The sophisticated, oak panelled dining rooms are available for formal, private dining events for up to 80 people with menus tailor-made to suit the occasion (from £42).

The Pavilion is ideal for bespoke parties for

larger private or corporate groups, with festive menus created especially for guests (from £25). Coffee and warm mince pies, as well as crackers, party hats and novelties, are included.

Party guests are invited to stay the night in one of the nearby two and three-bedroom cottages at special rates (from £85pp), which include full English or Continental breakfast and a relaxing day (or two) at the Pavilion Spa with its 20-metre indoor pool, hydrotherapy pool, steam room, sauna and Jacuzzi.

For the ultimate indulgence there is a fabulous selection of treatments at the beauty salon, Dreams. www.eastwellmanor.co.uk. Call 01233 213020.



★ Book now for Christmas ★



Dine in style at Dover Marina

BOOK a Christmas or New Year event at the Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel and Spa on Dover's waterfront before August 31 for a ten per cent discount.

Throughout December there are Christmas Dinner Parties from £29.95 per person and Christmas Fayre Lunches from £18.95 per person.

It is advisable to book early for the traditional Christmas Day Lunch and Christmas Day Dinner, which remain very popular.

A Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner and a special Boxing Day buffet Lunch and Dinner are also on offer.

Those looking for a special Christmas treat

can enjoy a Festive Afternoon Tea or visit the Waterfront Spa and enjoy a special Express Christmas Pampering package.

Alternatively, an afternoon tea or spa treatment gift voucher makes a great Christmas present.

The New Year's Eve Dinner Party is booked out each year so to reserve your table you need to book now if you want to see in the New Year on the seafront.

Christmas and New Year bookings can be made at the Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel and Spa by telephoning 01304 203633 or sending an email to events@dovertmarinahotel.co.uk

Ramada Dover offers a range of Christmas events

CHRISTMAS and New Year bookings are now open at the Ramada Dover, with a ten per cent discount available for bookings made before August 31.

The hotel has a great range of events, including the traditional Christmas Day Lunch and the Christmas Day Dinner plus throughout December Christmas Fayre Lunches and in the evening Christmas Dinner Parties. In addition to this there are special lunches and dinners on Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

It is advisable to book well in advance for the

hugely popular festive afternoon teas, which are held in December and are priced at £14.95 per person.

On New Year's Eve there is a choice of two fabulous dinner parties in the Grand Marquee or in the Olive Tree restaurant.

With its garden setting and free car parking, the Ramada Dover is a convenient and great place to celebrate Christmas.

Bookings can be made with the Events Team at the Ramada Dover on 01304 821230 or email events@ramadadover.co.uk.



Enjoy a spell of pantomime magic with Snow White

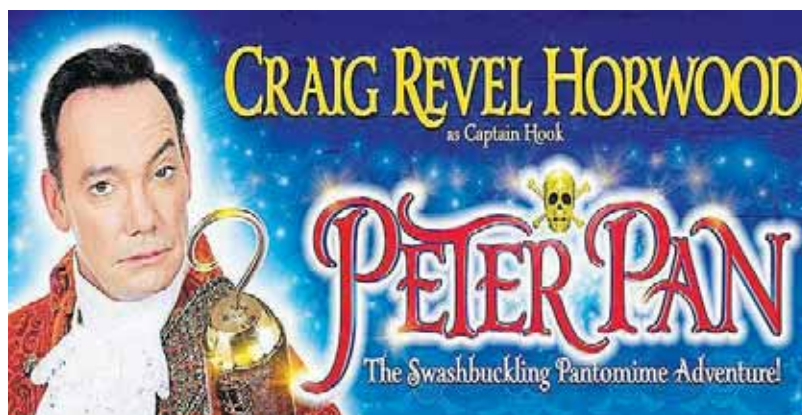
WITH more than 30,000 theatregoers attending the pantomime at The Orchard Theatre each festive season it's never too early to book for next year's show.

This year's pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, will star comedian and national treasure Joe Pasquale, and will be spectacularly brought to life with an abundance of comedy, sensational song and dance numbers, fabulous costumes and stunning scenery.

The Orchard Theatre is committed to improv-

ing access facilities and making the theatre accessible to everyone. Work has been undertaken to enhance the experience for customers with access needs, introducing a regular programme of accessible performances to include Audio Described, Sign Language Interpreted Performances, Captioned Performance and a Relaxed Performance.

To book tickets for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the Ticket Office on 01322 220000.



Peter Pan flies to Bromley

CRAIG Revel Horwood will star as Captain Hook in the swashbuckling family pantomime adventure, Peter Pan, at the Churchill Theatre from Friday, December 9, to Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Tickets are selling fast for this dazzling production that will be spectacularly brought to life with an abundance of comedy, stunning sets, fabulous costumes and pantomime magic.

The production also features Paul Burlingand Dawson Chance and 'Willy'.

Customers with access needs can enjoy an Audio Described Performance, a Sign Language Interpreted Performance and a Relaxed Performance.

For dates and more information visit churchilltheatre.co.uk

Since 1977 the Churchill Theatre in Bromley has been one of the South East's leading live entertainment venues, welcoming over 150,000 customers through its doors every year.

The theatre's comfortable auditorium seats up to 781, is fully air-conditioned and the modern facilities include several bars, refreshment kiosks and spacious foyers.

Over 10,000 tickets have already been sold for this year's pantomime – don't miss out and book your tickets today at churchilltheatre.co.uk or alternatively call the Box Office team on 020 3285 6000

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2016



Headline
Sponsor



NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight. The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers. All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment. The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers. We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce

and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop. The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners. Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category. All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner. This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise

the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations. These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors. It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online. We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business. ■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag

Kent Life and
Kent on Sunday
Food & Drink
Awards 2016
Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to:
Food & Drink Awards 2016.
Archant Kent,
Kent House, 81 Station Road,
Ashford TN23 1PP

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available ___at www.kent-life.co.uk and at www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is Sunday, August 7, 2016

Name.....
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Email.....

By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database. Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.

Newcomer of the Year Sponsored by Clive Emson Land & Property auctioneers Who? Where? Why?	Independent food or drink retailer of the Year Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic Who? Where? Why?	Cafe of the Year Sponsored by K Sports Who? Where? Why?
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Chef of the Year Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries Who? Where? Why?	Customer Service of the Year Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury Who? Where? Why?	Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year Who? Where? Why?

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

CAFE OF THE YEAR



This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee!

Tea and coffee shops are an integral

part of the Kent food and drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic

customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable

dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Most of our awards recognise customer

service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has shown that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Is this the dawn of a brave era?

I HAVE to totally agree with Roger Truelove [KoS letters, last week], it's time to move onwards and upwards.

There is much to be done, after David Cameron continued filling up his pending tray, didn't fulfil the promises made to get elected and doubled our national debt to £1.6 trillion.

Also we still have the colossal waste of hundreds of billions in the NHS, the MoD and government run departments.

We still have quangocrats on £250,000 for a three-day week.

Theresa May always talked a good job and was excellent at stating the 'bleedin' obvious', while appearing to do very little, now it's time to put up, or shut up. It was noted how she hid away during the referendum campaign, so she could sit on the fence and drop to whichever side won.

I sincerely hope this is the dawn of a new era, but at 71 having witnessed the decline in the quality of the 'great pretenders' in Westminster, I won't be holding my breath. We seem to be run by a bunch of cowards unconnected to reality, totally obsessed with themselves and how they are perceived by the media, not the electorate.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

LED changes are such a fiasco

FOLLOWING your in-depth article around the new LED lighting being installed by Kent County Council [KoS, last week] I think that this is yet another example of a county council behaving arrogantly.

The project will cost £40m but if KCC was not getting a government grant of £22m towards this would they have been so 'gung-ho' in racing ahead on the flimsy advice of Public Health England?

When the prestigious American Medical Association announces that 3000k should be the maximum in residential areas, and Dr George Dobre, senior lecturer in applied optics at the University of Kent says photochemical damage to the retina of the eye due to cellular oxidative stress, via even low levels of the blue light, is a worry, then surely this considerable mass of educated information should take precedence over that of Public Health England?

Can nothing be done to stop this

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Why a new EU could emerge from ashes

I AM wondering, even hoping, that all the points of view expressed by journalists and politicians in the aftermath of the referendum result will be radically changed when the real truth strikes home.

The inescapable facts are, that due to such a slender majority, almost 50/50, half the country is dictating to the other half. Certainly not democracy.

It is ironic that most of the exit voters did so because they don't want to be dictated to by the EU, but are quite happy now to do the dictating.

This is the very situations when the full constitutional rules of our country must be adhered to. Namely, a referendum is only a suggestion the government should certainly take into account, but must go through all the parliamentary procedures to pass the bill (or otherwise) in both houses of parliament.

We should not underestimate

the alarm the exit result has caused the EU zealots (those that aim for the United States of Europe). Could it be the start of the rebellion against the EU, created in the old world and therefore unlikely to be suitable for the current world?

Now, it is unlikely we will face the possibility of a million or so Turkish people coming into our country, but the other western European countries do. I have nothing against the Turks (except perhaps Galipoli), but as always, the contentious issue for any indigenous population is the quantity, not the individuals.

I would like to see a reconstructed EU which we can enjoy being part of, but with each country having many of their sovereign powers reinstated. This is an achievable ambition, if the opposition to the status quo continues to escalate.

DR Hedges
Chatham

fiasco before it goes any further?

Susan Fairley,
Deal

Where do all the old bulbs go?

IF Kent County Council is replacing street lighting with LEDs [KoS, last week] what happens to old lights?

Are they put into landfill or recycled for their metals and gases which is probably very expensive? Or are they recycled?

Or are they being sent to a third

world county that would be worse for the environment?

Would it not be cheaper to replace the bulbs that are no longer working?

Mark Lincoln,
via email

We must reject hate crimes

ON July 14 I was one of the people sitting in the public gallery at the full Thanet District Council meeting.

I was there because I had urged the council to discuss the issue of xenophobia, hate-crime and racism in Thanet via Amnesty International's Stand Against Hate campaign whereby all councils in the UK are being called upon to debate the issue.

I work at grass roots level in local communities and so I get to hear the stories that perhaps others don't hear – the Polish woman who is now afraid to speak in public, the taxi-driver who hates living here but can't afford to move away, the young black man who has been openly abused in public places and nobody stands up in his defence, the Muslim woman who experiences stares and whispers because she wears a hijab.

This is not the society I want to live in. Surely we all deserve respect and safety, irrespective of our origin? Surely we all want to feel welcome where we live?

There is a general view that the upsurge in 'hate-related crime' is something that the media have perpetuated because local police records don't reflect that increase.

We must be aware there are many reasons that people might not report hate-crimes – fear of not being taken seriously and fear of recrimination being just two. As one young black woman said to me recently, "If I went to the police every time someone called me a name or acted in a hateful way towards me, I would be down at the police station all the time".

I was disappointed Thanet District Council voted almost unanimously not to carry forward the motion to condemn hate-crime, xenophobia and racism.

This was a huge and sorry message to send out to our minority groups and to the wider community and it does nothing to promote Kent as a fair and welcoming place.

Sheree Bell,
Ramsgate

Weather or not to complain

WHY is it that every time the summer starts slowly, we whinge on and on about the weather and then act as if it is out of this world when the sun finally shines?

We've so far had just a handful of really hot days and we're nearly in August. That is not sufficient for people to start complaining. We need more sun and we need more sweltering days. It's not like we cannot take refuge in our homes and offices after all.

T Miller,
Faversham

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Herne Bay beach
by **Graham Read**
from **Rochester**

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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SPORTING SALOON: Alfa's new Giulia is at the vanguard of a raft of new models from the Italian marque

Alfa Romeo... is the legend reborn?

BRAND UPDATE: Handsome new Giulia sporting saloon heralds the arrival of eight new Alfas – can they revive this once great Italian marque?

BUILDING a premium motor brand from scratch is hard. Ask Toyota about Lexus, or Nissan about Infiniti. How those Japanese marques must envy FIAT then for owning Alfa Romeo, with its great sporting heritage and premium image. And yet, we have often heard of FIAT's commitment to reviving its erstwhile rival, only for the product to fall short.

Maybe that will be truly changed in September though, by a car using one of the most evocative names in the Italian brand's memorable history – Giulia.

The same label adorned several sporting saloons and, with the addition of 'Sprint' or 'Spider', attractive coupes and convertibles too.

For now, it reappears on a compact executive saloon recalling the famous Type 105 model (1962-1978) – the other star car in that Mini-fest, The Italian Job.

Though scripted as the fall guy in the 1969 cult film, the Giulia was more than capable of dealing with the Minis, being light, aerodynamic, manoeuvrable and fast, and much loved by the Italian police.

It's modern-day successor also looks slippery and slick and is sumptuously equipped inside.

It will be finely balanced too, with 50:50 front/back weight distribution and sophisticated rear suspension, allowed by returning to the classic



'driver's car' rear-wheel drive layout, as favoured by that compact executive sector king, the BMW 3 Series.

The Giulia will also herald eight new cars and massive investment in Alfa Romeo by FIAT over the next three years.

The image-building Quadrifoglio (four-leaved clover) is the Giulia flagship, with an all-alu-

minium Ferrari-inspired 510bhp 2.9-litre turbo petrol V6 engine, delivering 0-62mph in just 3.9 seconds.

But the volume will be done by tax-efficient 2.2-litre diesels, offering 148 and 117bhp, tipped to be priced at around or less than BMW's company car 'user chooser' star, the 320d, which starts at around £30,000.

You really can depend on an Auris

It won't set your heart racing, but Toyota's family hatch contender sets the gold standard for reliability in its class, writes **Steve Loader...**

TEN years ago, Toyota replaced the long-running Corolla name with Auris for the UK and Europe. The thinking that was both markets wanted all of the Corolla's known virtues – reliability, affordability and low running costs – plus more pizzazz.

And Auris seemed just the name to do it: derived from the Latin name for gold – remember that dastardly Bond villain Auric Goldfinger? – it would surely set a new gold standard in family hatchbacks.

But it was pretty much business as usual, except that the current and newly facelifted Auris at least looks racy and Toyota's bulletproof reputation is nowadays backed by an impressive five-year/100,000-mile warranty, should the unthinkable happen – though the Auris still tots up reliability awards.

Patriotic UK buyers may also like the fact it is built here at Toyota's huge plant near Derby.

Available (from £15,645) as a smart five-door hatch or rakish yet roomy Touring Sports – estate car to you and me – the everyday appeal of the Auris is underpinned by a wide choice of petrol, diesel and even petrol-electric hybrid options.



But the big news lately is the introduction of the advanced direct-injection four-cylinder 1.2 litre turbocharged petrol unit tested here.

Like most carmakers, Toyota has recognised the virtues of small-capacity high-efficiency petrol power and this unit will herald a whole new

generation of powertrains from the world's biggest car producer.

It feels refined, but is lively low down the rev range for cut and thrust town driving and relaxed when cruising in sixth, with a decent 0-62mph of 10.1 seconds, while economy is a plausible 52.3mpg (combined). The standard six-speed



gearbox is also smooth and precise.

As ever though, the Auris remains a car set-up for comfort and carefree motoring: the ride is good and everything inside is arranged logically, but the car's dynamics are staid compared with its racy looks.

It's a similar story inside, with tough but sometimes lacklustre

Toyota Auris Design 1.2T 5-dr

Price:	from £19,945
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf

materials. The dashboard is well-arranged, but doesn't excite and I found the much-vaunted 6.1-inch Toyota Touch infotainment screen frustrating at times: sometimes it simply didn't respond to my fingers and the USB connectivity was rather selective.

But the car is roomy in the back with the middle passenger getting a decent perch due to the shallow centre floor hump.

And the boot is one of the better ones in its class, with every square centimetre utilised – the underfloor compartment for the space saver spare wheel has a neat stowage drawer tray above it – and there is an extra 12-volt connector.

So, there's a real pattern here, isn't there? No, the Auris won't tug at the heartstrings, but it will soothe the brain cells – you can depend on it.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence
An application has been made by:
Thavaseelan Thangarasa for the premises
**KENT QUICK MART, 35 KNIGHTS ROAD,
ROCHESTER, Kent ME3 9DT**
On the date of: **15/07/2016**
Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the
proposed hours of opening:
**RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOL OFF THE
PREMISES**
MONDAY TO SUNDAY
BETWEEN THE HOURS 06:00 to 24:00
Should you wish to make representations to the council
it must be in writing and/or you can view my application
by contacting the council on 01634 337107 or 337108
by **11/08/2016**
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a
false statement in connection with an application. A
person guilty of an offence under this section is liable
on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.
For more information contact Licensing Unit by
telephone: Licensing Services - 01634 337107 or
337108 / Enforcement - 01634 337112 or 337106 or by
email: licensing@medway.gov.uk
Write to: Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Gun Wharf,
Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4T

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence
Notice is hereby given that Spa Caffe
Limited of London Road, Sevenoaks
Kent, TN15 0RS has applied to Tonbridge
& Malling Borough Council for the
GRANT of the Sale of Alcohol for the
premises Teal Cafe situated at London
Road, Sevenoaks Kent, TN15 0RS
Any person wishing to submit
representations about the proposals
should make them in writing to: Licensing
Services, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West
Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ giving in detail
the grounds of objection by 8th August
2016.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to
make a false statement in connection with
an application. The maximum fine for
which a person is liable on summary of
conviction for the offence is £5000.

**Goods Vehicle
Operator's Licence**
Triple Nine Transport Ltd of Unit Z, Transfesa
Road, Paddock wood Distribution Centre,
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UU is applying for
a new operating license as follows: To Keep 5
units and 2 trailers at the operating centre Unit
Z, Transfesa Road, Paddock Wood distribution
centre, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UU.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings)
near the operating centre(s) who believe that
their use or enjoyment of that land would be
affected, should make written representations
to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House,
386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating
their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.
Representors must at the same time send a copy
of their representations to the applicant at the
address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to
Making Representations is available from the
Traffic Commissioner's office.

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are available for public inspection at Dover District Council Offices,
White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ during normal office
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fee of 15 pence for each side of each page.



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Team Leader - Ashford

Full time 37.5 hours per week Salary: £18,525

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A –C Grade or equivalent
- 2+ years working in medical administration
- Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook.
- Supervisory/Team management

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please

contact: **Gemma Preston, Business Office Manager on 01304 222682**

Closing date: **26/07/2016** Interviews to take place at the end of August 2016

HR Assistant - Dover

Full time 37.5 hours per week Salary: £ 17,597 per annum

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A –C Grade or equivalent
- Previously worked in an Administrative environment
- Proficient in Microsoft Office e.g. Word/Excel/Outlook
- Attention to Detail
- Awareness and understanding of the importance of Confidentiality within the HR Department, demonstrating discretion at all times

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Mandy Oliver, HR Manager on 01304 222678

Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: **25/07/2016** Interview date: **2nd August 2016**

For a job description and application form please contact:

Justine Whittle, HR Advisor Telephone: 01304 222684

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

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KEYWORKER – EXTENDED PROVISION

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.
£22,442 - £25,416 pa - 41 hours per week. All year round.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Residential Care

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in the residential home mornings, evenings and weekends. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.
£14,338 - £15,207 plus 10% pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or £5,246 - £5,564 – 15 hours per week, Weekends only – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.
£11,752 - £12,085 plus 10% pa - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends – more hours available) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or 15 hours per week part-time pro-rata.

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

We have some additional opportunities to provide additional cover within either the classrooms or residences on an ad-hoc hourly paid basis, up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends.
Please contact us for further details.

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.
Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.
The closing date for all applications is midnight Thursday 2nd September 2016.

Northeast insists on positive focus

Overseas stars Tom Latham and Kagiso Rabada have now left

Cricket

By Mark Pennell

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT captain Sam Northeast is calling on his teammates to hold their nerve in the coming weeks and make a success of the summer.

The club looked out of contention in the T20 Blast after slipping into the bottom half of the south group table last month, but Spitfires have resurrected their hopes with three successive wins.

The return to form of a number of key players, most notably Daniel Bell-Drummond, fresh from England Lions duty having recovered from a hand injury that cut him down in his prime, has helped deliver some fine recent results across the sport's formats.

However, with New Zealand batsman Tom Latham having already departed and promising South African bowler Kagiso Rabada making his final appearance for Kent on Friday, Northeast's side now have to finish the campaign without that overseas flair to complement the domestic talent.

Northeast himself again fell just shy of a double century early this week, but it was another reminder of just how effective he can be at the crease.

"We're competing in all competitions at the business end of the season when everything gets that little bit more serious," conceded the 26-year-old skipper.

"The guys are in good form, we're playing good cricket at the right time and hopefully we can kick on."

"The motivation is there because



LEADER: Kent captain Sam Northeast

we know we have to win our last two games to qualify. We've got some momentum going in the format and our confidence is running high in T20.

Referring to his side's dominance over Sussex during a county championship draw in Tunbridge Wells

this week, Northeast added: "We can take a lot out of the four days here because we played most of the cricket over the four days."

"There's a lot of positives from the past few weeks too, because we're unbeaten and have played some seriously good cricket."

Gills snap up ex-England defender Konchesky

Football

GILLINGHAM have snapped up former England international Paul Konchesky on a free transfer.

The experienced left-back, who was capped twice for his country, has made over 500 professional appearances during a career which spans 19 years.

"Since I first spoke to the manager, I knew it could be a good place for me to play, and I want to go places with this club," he said.

"Team spirit is key at any club, if the boys are together they can go a long way, and I think there's a good dressing room spirit here."

After becoming Charlton's youngest-ever debutant, he joined West Ham, scoring in an epic FA Cup



BOSS: Justin Edinburg

Final with Liverpool in 2006.

Konchesky then racked up 122

starts, including one in the UEFA Cup Final in 2010, in three years at Fulham before teaming up with future England manager Roy Hodgson at Liverpool.

Most recently, he made 34 appearances for Championship side QPR during a loan spell last season.

"His CV speaks for itself, so this is a signing that shows our intentions for the season," said manager Justin Edinburg. "We recognised we were short of experience in the dressing room last season, and from meeting him over the past few days, it's clear he has a burning desire to continue to keep on achieving big objectives and not let his career fade out."

"This made me really push the signing through, and once again I'd like to thank the chairman for his support."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Shaw in top condition to bring home medals

TUNBRIDGE Wells windsurfer Bryony Shaw says she is in perfect condition as she prepares to compete in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro next month.

The only British woman to have won an Olympic windsurfing medal in history, Shaw plans to once again bring a medal home from Brazil this summer.

In a sport where physical endurance plays such a pivotal part, sailors place a huge emphasis on their nutrition before races, ensuring no weight is lost or put on in the weeks running up to the showpiece tournament.

"At the moment, I'm focusing on becoming more lean because I need a good power to weight ratio for the Games," she said.

"Rio is going to be very much about accelerating, getting the board up and planning for every little gust possible."

The 33-year-old Shaw joins the likes of Adam Gemili and Dina Asher-Smith in representing the county when the competition kicks off on August 5.



READY: British Sailing Team



HOME: Ebbsfleet United's Stonebridge Road

Fleet continue rebuild with signing of Powell

A FORMER West Ham academy player has joined Ebbsfleet United this week.

Jack Powell, 22, has recently been on trial at the Fleet and impressed as he played 90 minutes in a friendly at Thamesmead Town.

Now it seem boss Daryl McMahon is ready to give the creative central midfielder an opportunity at National League South level.

After learning his trade with the Hammers, Powell joined Millwall in 2013, making two appearances in the Championship in August 2014 and several in cup games as then-Lions manager Ian Holloway compared him with Tim Cahill.

Skilful, two-footed and composed on the ball, Powell has attracted interest from the likes of Swindon Town this summer.

Athletic set the record straight

DOVER have moved to quash rumours of a deal between themselves and Cheltenham for star player Sean Raggett.

The defender is out of contract at Crabble, and has been linked with a host of Football League clubs and any deal would involve a compensation payment to Dover.

A club statement said: "Despite press statements to the contrary,

likely originating from the player's agent, Dover Athletic Football Club have received no formal offer of compensation from Cheltenham Town Football Club, or indeed any other club.

"If Cheltenham Town, or any other club, wish to sign the player then they are at liberty to do so and will have the compensation figure decided by an FA tribunal."

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